

Dudley

# CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 10, 2016

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# GRITTER SERVICE NOW ON THIN ICE

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE number of gritting lorries taking to the roads in the Dudley borough this winter could be cut to save money.

Gritting services will be reviewed, with cash-strapped Dudley Council aiming to save more than £100,000 over the next three years.

Further cost-cutting measures have been revealed by the council, which needs to save £25 million by 2020.

These include closing public toilets which are underused and in a poor state of repair and dimming street lights on residential roads.

Council staff could also be forced to take five days of additional unpaid leave each year, at a time to be decided by their bosses.

This comes on top of more job losses announced at the council, which blames reduced Government funding for its cuts.

The measures are included in the council's budget proposals for the next financial year.

Bosses have also said they will consider increasing burial fees as well as hiking charges on its car parks.

As the first frosts of November hit roads this week, one of the most controversial measures proposed by the local authority is a review of its winter service provision. Bosses said major roads would continue to be gritted but they needed to ensure the service was providing value for money.

## Technology

Gritting lorries and bins, which are provided to households, would be 'rationalised' under the plans which would save £105,000.

Highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said improvements in technology meant the borough no longer needed lorries covering every inch of the borough.

She said: "People don't need to worry about the gritting service. We employ an awful lot of technology now which knows when and where we should be gritting. We don't do a blanket grit anymore. Those days are gone. The lorries know where to grit and that's where the savings will come from."

Street lights could be dimmed to 60 per cent power between 11am and 5am, a move the council says could save almost £300,000.

Finance bosses have said they need to deliver savings wherever possible in order to achieve its saving target. The latest cost-cutting measures come on top of previous announcements about the closure of the Dudley Art Gallery and Museum building, while a controversial plan to axe school crossing patrols is currently out for consultation (see page 3).

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before."

• More job losses – page 4

## GADGET SHOW TOY SPECIAL GOES TO SCHOOL



Presenter Jason Bradbury, who was filming with pupils playing with Christmas toys, at Lapal Primary School, Halesowen

CHRISTMAS came early for pupils at a Halesowen school when the Gadget Show team turned up with a haul of goodies for them to try.

Youngsters from Lapal Primary School on Priory Road were filmed playing with the toys alongside presenter Jason Bradbury and his team for the Christmas special.

The show previews and reviews the latest gadgets.

Amongst a huge array of toys were Furbies, Barbie drones, Pokemon gadgets, Nerf toys and also a Skylander video game.

Joanna Turner, headteacher, said: "Jason and his team turned our school hall into a Christmas wonderland with Father Christmas himself coming to visit and bringing all the latest gadgets."

"The children, aged between six and eight, played with the latest toys so the team could get their thoughts and opinions on what's cool and what they think about them."

"It was lovely to see the children being allowed to investigate and play with some of the latest toys that are set to be some of the best presents for children this Christmas."

"The presents and team sat down and played with all the toys next to all the pupils. They loved playing with everything. It was really great to see them working out how the latest gadgets work."

The pupils favoured The Razor Crazy Cart Shift, a mini go-kart designed for younger drivers that allows children to drift and spin at safe speeds. Prices for the Razor Cart started from £220.

The Christmas episode of The Gadget Show featuring the Halesowen pupils will air on Channel 5 on December 16.

## FATALITY

### Motorist is killed in crash on major route

A MOTORIST was killed following a crash on a major route from the Black Country into Birmingham on Monday morning.

The man died in an accident on the Quinton Expressway in the early hours. The crash happened between junction three of the M5 and the Quinton Island. No other cars were involved.

Paramedics arrived to find the car on fire and the driver could not be saved.

The A456 Quinton Expressway, which joins onto Manor Way, Halesowen, was closed until 10am as an investigation into the crash was launched.

## FRAUDSTER

### Warning over bogus council worker con

A WARNING has been issued after a 95-year-old was targeted by a caller pretending to be a council worker.

The fraudster tried to con the elderly resident on Grace Road, in Tipton, on Monday. The conman was male, in his 40s and he was wearing dark overalls.

Councillor Preet Gill, of Sandwell Council, said: "Council officials don't turn up without making a prior appointment. Our advice is not to open the door to people you don't know and to ask people to show ID."

## DEVELOPMENT

### Tycoon plans new patients' car park

A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE developer who founded Merry Hill shopping centre wants to build a low-cost public car park opposite Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Property tycoon Roy Richardson has revealed he is considering building a car park on land he owns off the A4101 High Street – opposite the hospital.

The wealthy businessman, whose family is reported to be worth £450 million, said the site would either be free or have low charges in comparison with the hospital.

The proposals could cause friction with hospital bosses, given that the car park would be in direct competition.

## INSIDE

### MASTERCLASS WITH SIR LENNY



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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016



Hafiz Rahman – paedophile

A RELIGIOUS leader who went on the run after being found guilty of indecently assaulting two young girls at his mosque has been sentenced to 11-and-a-half years behind bars in his absence.

Hafiz Rahman, 58, was convicted of five charges on October 7 in his absence, claiming he was too ill to attend court. But he fled the country to Bangladesh the following day.

Police are working with officers in that country to try to track him down.

Rahman, had been working at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath in the 1980s

when the abuse took place. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he assaulted two girls at the mosque, where they had gone for religious instruction. The victims were aged under 10 at the time.

Sentencing Rahman, Judge Nicholas Cartwright said: "There was no need to be suspicious that he would not attend his sentencing hearing so no warrant was issued for his arrest after he was convicted."

The judge said the first victim was touched in the chest area through clothes and he touched her thigh.

"He stopped when she told her mother. She has largely buried this abuse," he said.

"His other victim was abused in a more serious way."

"There is clear evidence that her ability to forge relationships has been blighted, and she finds it especially difficult to enjoy the intimacy of an adult relationship."

One of the sex offender's victims said after the sentencing: "I am pleased with the sentencing. For me, this is over now.

"I just hope the police can get him back here."

## Questions over how sex offender was able to flee

A CHILDREN'S charity has questioned border controls after a Black Country mosque's Imam, who was convicted for abusing two young girls, was able to flee the country.

The NSPCC has hit out after Hafiz Rahman, of Ballard Road, Netherton, fled to Bangladesh after being convicted of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 58-year-old claimed he was too ill to attend court and was convicted in his absence. The following day he flew to Bangladesh and has since been given a jail sentence in his absence (see left).

West Midlands Police said Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh on October 8, after officers had visited him at his home to ensure he complied with bail conditions. His name was also placed on the Police National Computer, advising officers should be alerted if he attempted to flee the UK.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "Rahman used the trust and authority he commanded as an Imam to abuse two vulnerable young girls. These girls would have gone to the mosque believing they would be safe, but instead Rahman subjected them to appalling attacks."

"Even worse, he made his victims endure the trauma of a crown court trial by denying the offences, and has now fled the country. Questions clearly need to be answered as to how and why he managed to leave the country."

A police spokesman said: "The police are not responsible for border checks so we cannot comment."

## Firm's takeover is start of a new era

A STOURBRIDGE company making extraction systems has been taken over by the Telford-based Filtermist group.

Multi Fan Systems, based at Wassell Grove Business Centre, has made ventilation and extraction systems for the likes of the University of Birmingham and Ricoh Products. Multi Fan Systems managing director David Fall will be retiring from the business, while fellow sales director Kevin Hood and contracts director Richard Field will continue to oversee Multi Fan contracts alongside the existing team of employees.

Mr Hood said: "The agreement with Filtermist marks the start of a new chapter for Multi Fan Systems. We are confident that this new agreement will benefit both our employees and our customers."

## Anastacia has a Brum concert date

AMERICAN singer Anastacia has announced a tour next year including a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on May 28.

The Left Outside Alone singer was recently voted off BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

# Plans for replacement care home are unveiled

## PLANS for a new care home for the elderly in Kingswinford have been unveiled.

The new facility is planned next to an existing home at New Bradley Hall, which is deemed outdated and will be demolished when the new build is finished and residents move across.

It follows years of campaigning and a 5,000-name petition bid to stop New Bradley Hall's closure after Dudley Council said it could no longer afford to run it. This prompted council chiefs to overturn plans, and instead work with the Black Country Housing Group (BCHG) to find a solution.

The home and jobs were saved through a transfer deal with BCHG in February last year. The not-for-profit organisation has since worked in partnership with the council to continue to provide care for residents.

BCHG has unveiled plans to build a 66-bedroom complex to replace New Bradley Hall, which they say is no longer fit for purpose. A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council, and BCHG will meet the costs of the new home.

The building, if approved, will have a modern design, which developers say will enable more 'person centred care' for people with dementia.

### First

A council spokesman added that residents would continue to receive care within the existing home during construction, and then would transfer.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "When we saved the home, after years of uncertainty, and transferred jobs across to Black Country Housing Group we made it very clear that the residents of the home must come first in everything that happens there."

"I am delighted that this continues to be the case with this application for a significant investment in their home and care. If planners approve this development it will help create a modern, purpose-built home, which meets residents' every need."

BCHG have consulted with residents, their families and staff on the proposals.

Amanda Tomlinson, chief executive of BCHG, said: "We want to build a new, state-of-the-art home, which is fit for the future and fully meets the care needs of current and future residents of Dudley."

## Chelsea is made up over award



Award-winning make up artist Chelsea Moore, 18, wowed judges at the Midlands Fashion Awards in Birmingham

A TALENTED graduate from Dudley is made up over a top fashion award that promises to be the foundation of a successful career as a make-up artist.

Chelsea Moore has been named Midlands Make Up Artist of the year at the Midlands Fashion Awards.

The awards ceremony was held at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Centre.

The 18-year-old qualified with an IMA Degree from the Central

School of Make-Up in Birmingham in February and is now balancing full-time work as an administrator with self-employed make-up work.

Chelsea said: "I was looking for new opportunities and came across the awards so I put myself forward."

"We had to do makeup on a few different models that were going down the catwalk. We were marked the hygiene of our kit, the range of makeup we had, how we spoke to people and presented ourselves and the final overall look."

She added: "It's a big achievement and I'm really overwhelmed by it, I wasn't expecting it at all."

"It's going to open so many opportunities so it's made me really happy and made me believe in my own work."

Chelsea Moore, Chelsea's mother, said: "I'm really proud of her, it brought me to tears. She's come a long way with her work in such a small space of time."

The finalists were judged by a panel of industry professionals.

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# Children in harmony on BBC charity appeal night

THE BBC Children in Need's appeal show next Friday will see the return of the UK-wide Children's Choir, which will include Dudley and Sandwell schoolchildren singing at the Black Country Living Museum.

The BBC Children in Need Appeal on November 18 will see Graham Norton, Tess Daly, Greg James, Ade Adepitan, Rochelle Humes and Marvin Humes host the TV extravaganza. They will be joined by around 1,500 singing children from across the UK for a live performance of Lean on Me by Bill Withers.

This will be the sixth year that the Children's Choir has performed. Last year the choir sang Miley Cyrus' The Climb and in previous years they've sung Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water, as well as the Pretenders power ballad I'll Stand By You.

One of the filming locations is the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road. That's where more than 180 children will perform. The pupils are from the following schools: in the choir made up of children from Jessons Primary, Tipton Green Junior, Kings Heath Primary, Mansfield Green Primary, Niksham School, Tiverton School, Water Mill School, Westminster Primary School.

All the schools have started their rehearsals ready for their live performance during the appeal show.

BBC Children in Need currently funds 137 projects across the West Midlands with funding of more than £7.2 million in the region.

## Work on detail of Hippodrome deal

CAMPAIGNERS behind a rescue deal for Dudley Hippodrome have said they are taking time to finalise the agreement to make sure it is 'absolutely right'.

There has been a delay in handing over the keys to the famous building to the Black Country Hippodrome group but members say they are just waiting for some final points to be resolved with Dudley Council. Group chairman Paul Collins said: 'We are taking all this time and care to get the lease right to ensure that we have the theatre on terms that will allow us to commission the reports and raise the funds needed to restore it.'

The group needs to raise £5 million to refurbish the building to become a venue again.

## Homes proposed for haulage site

SEVEN homes are proposed to be built on the former site of a Halesowen haulage firm. An application for the homes at Narrow Lane, on land previously occupied by W Morris and Son, has been submitted to planners.



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# We shall remember them at services



Wreaths being laid in the Black Country

BRITAIN will fall silent once again at 11am on November 11 in honour of servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country during two world wars and other conflicts.

Royal British Legions have been preparing for the services and people will be invited to gather in town centres and around cenotaphs to pay tribute.

Events will take place on Remembrance Day on Friday, November 11 as well as on Sunday, November 13. People can observe the silence and attend cenotaphs on the 11th day of the

11th month, while parades and longer services will be held two days later.

Dudley events include:

Priory Street, Dudley, November 11 – Veterans join council staff, councillors and residents at the Clock Tower in Priory Street from 11am, includes the laying of wreaths and a two minute silence.

Ednam Road, Dudley, November 13 – A service at the cenotaph in Ednam Road at 10.40am. A parade will pass from Vicar Street at 10.30am, along High Street, Stone Street, Priory Street, Priory Road to the cenotaph.

St James' Church, Gornal, November 13 – A parade and band will leave Gornal British Legion on Rutton Street at 10.55am to the memorial hall by St James' Church.

St Peter's Church, Cradley, November 13 – A parade will leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane at 1.15pm for the Cenotaph at St Peter's Church.

Also, in Sandwell, Powke Lane Cemetery, Rowley Regis, November 13 – Mayor Julie Webb will attend. The parade starts at 10.25am from Highgate Street car park, Old Hill.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Road is one-way over two weeks

A BUSY Black Country commuter route will be one-way for nearly two weeks.

Dudley Road will be one-way on weekdays from today (Thursday) to November 23.

Diversions will be in place via Sedgley Road West, Sedgley Road and Birmingham New Road.

Roadworks have had an impact on the area since summer.

Work on the Birmingham New Road, at its junction with Shaw Road, began in August and is due to last until next spring.

### Advice day for potential authors

ASPIRING writers can get advice and guidance at an event at Dudley Library later this month.

Dudley Library will be hosting a questions and answers session with a panel of published authors and poets on Saturday, November 26.

They will be talking about the writing process and answering questions on working with publishers and agents from 10.30am until 1pm.

To book your free ticket call (01384) 815560, email [libraries@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@dudley.gov.uk) or enquire at the library in St James's Road.

### Historian leaves no stone unturned

THE Black Country Society are hosting a lecture which looks at burial places of the famous and infamous.

The lecture, 'Leave No Stone Unturned', will take place at the Black Country Living Museum.

Travelling from East Anglia will be historian John Vigar, a successful author, broadcaster and popular tour guide with over 40 years of experience.

The lecture takes place on Wednesday November 23 with tickets priced at £2.

### Bishop's third date as tickets snapped up

LIVERPOOLIAN comedian John Bishop has added a third Birmingham arena date to his Winging It tour next year.

He had already announced shows at the Barclaycard Arena on November 10 and 11.

He will now also be appearing there on November 12. Tickets range from £28.93 to £45.24.

His tour also due to visit Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 7 next year.

### Run for the Legion

A RUNNING club will take part in a poppy run in support of The Royal British Legion.

Sedgley Striders will set off from The Three Crowns pub, on Dovedale Road, in the Ettingshall Park area of Wolverhampton, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

# Council not responsible for pupils' road safety

**COUNCIL bosses say they are consulting with schools across Dudley borough on the future of lollipop wardens.**

The move comes in Dudley as a petition to keep them continues to gather support.

The service is currently funded by Dudley Council but is set to get its funding axed because the council claim they can no longer afford to pay for it.

The council blamed budget cuts imposed upon them by a reduction in Government funding.

The council has no legal duty to fund the crossing patrols and suggests that schools could fund them instead.

But more than 490 people have signed a petition to try to save the patrols and many claims schools do not have enough money to pay for them.

However, the council argues that the consultation will give schools a greater say in how they want the service to run.

Under proposals, which sees the council aiming to save £395,000, schools would fund the patrols which serve their pupils and the council would maintain the operation of the service.

But of the 123 schools invited to participate in the consultation as part of the review, as of last week only 23 had responded. The consultation closes this week.

#### Defended

Councillor Hilary Bills, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, has defended the authority's move.

'The decision to review the school crossing patrol service has not been taken lightly,' she said.

'With national government continuing to reduce funding, it is inevitable that there will be an impact on how this and other key services can be delivered in the future.'

'I know there have been some concerns raised by schools and parents but ultimately I would remind people that it is a parent's or guardian's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service.'

'As a responsible authority we will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points with other measures. Drivers have a responsibility to take extra care at these locations.'

## Sir Lenny shares acting skills



Sir Lenny Henry working with pupils at Shenley Academy in Northfield, Birmingham, on their drama skills

BLACK Country comedy legend Sir Lenny Henry dropped into a secondary school to inspire the next generation of performers.

The Dudley-born actor and comic took part in a Q&A session with pupils in Birmingham. He led students in a re-enactment of the dance from Michael Jackson's Thriller, before giving a speech about Othello and his love for Shakespeare.

Sir Lenny discussed his first

theatre trip to Birmingham with his family. The Comic Relief co-founder said: 'My mum was very hard-working and once a year she took us to watch a panto – the first one I saw was at the Alexandra in Birmingham.'

#### Generation

He told the audience of youngsters at Shenley Academy that the current generation have access to

more opportunities to get involved with the arts at a young age – and urged them to take advantage. He added: 'I think the best art is probably the art you make yourself – learning how to make up your own plays, learning how to improvise and do something you can be proud of.'

Sir Lenny was launching a National Theatre project to broadcast live productions from the London theatre for school audiences.

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OUR changing language. I've lost count this week of the number of times radio and TV commentators have told us that the gap between Clinton and Trump is "tightening." A spanner tightens; gaps narrow.

AND what a huge privilege it is to live through great moments in history. Seven days from now and the die will be cast. In the years to come we may be able to tell our grandchildren how things were in the year before America officially went mad.

ONLY a few years ago, we were assured that eating eggs caused high cholesterol and clogged your arteries. Then we were told the theory was nonsense. And this week we are told that a review of 300,000 patients suggests an egg a day keeps strokes at bay. A moment's silence, please, for those who put their faith in the experts, stopped eating eggs and died of strokes.

DO you detect the sickly whiff of hypocrisy? Home Secretary Amber Rudd rules out a full inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave and some Labour politicians cry shame. Yet Labour was in power for 13 years. They had plenty of time to hold an inquiry. So why didn't they?

WE may not need a full-blown, lawyer-fest inquiry but Orgreave should be remembered and re-examined, if only to separate fact from propaganda. For a start, Orgreave was not a popular class-war uprising against the despised Margaret Thatcher that dozens of Leftie websites suggest.



Three years after Orgreave she won her third general election with another massive majority. Although many Brits had sympathy for the miners, there were bitter memories of the Three Day Week caused by the miners' strike of 1974. On the day itself, before the police perjury and evidence-tampering began, most folk supported the force's action. Victory for the police in the Battle of Orgreave may have been ugly but defeat was unthinkable.

CONTINUING the recent theme of inflation, a reader on a pension calculates that, in order to buy the house he has occupied for 49 years today, he would have to be a first-time buyer earning £60,000 a year.

MORE to the point, he says, when he first paid to watch Wolves over 60 years ago, his hobby consumed about one-fifth of his salary. To get similar value in the Premier League today he would need to earn £90,000. He asks: "Has the football improved that much?" Discuss.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Dishonest twins given second chance

TWINS found with stolen goods in Stourbridge have avoided being locked up because of their age.

Police found thousands of pounds worth of stolen property when they swooped on the home of Ramarr and Ramione Treleven, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The goods had been taken during a series of burglaries close to their address in Baylie Court, Green Road,

Stourbridge, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The haul, valued at more than £4,000, included jewellery, electrical equipment, mobile phones, bicycles and games consoles stolen between July 8 and September 16.

A leather wallet found during a search of the 20-year-olds' home was linked to one of the burglaries.

There was no proof that the broth-

ers were responsible for the burglaries but both admitted six charges of handling stolen property.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "The property had been bought by them over the internet or in face to face meetings. They knew it had not been legitimately obtained."

Judge James Burbidge QC told the brothers: "Because you are young, pleaded guilty at the first opportu-

nity and have served a few weeks in custody while waiting for the case to be settled, I will suspend the sentence. I am giving you a chance to avoid a life of crime. If you do not take it, I will be the judge who sends you to prison."

They were each given an eight month period of detention, suspended for two years and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work.

# More job losses and service cuts at council

MORE than 100 jobs will go at Dudley Council during the next financial year – but the council tax will still rise by nearly four per cent, it has been announced.

A total of 110 roles will be axed at the cash-strapped council, bosses said as they revealed their budget proposals for the 2016/17 financial year.

It means that the jobs cut will continue at the authority, which has already axed around 150 staff over the last two years. Another 60 posts are due to go by 2020.

Chiefs have also revealed that they are proposing to increase the council tax by 3.9 per cent, the maximum rise allowed without triggering a local referendum.

The move is expected to bring in £4 million for the council, which must at the same time save £25m over the next three years.

This will mean a wave of cuts and increased charges with parking fees set to rise across council-run car parks, burial fees likely to rise and the council to halt its funding for school crossing patrol wardens.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before."

"Many of the savings in the budget report are based on transforming the way we do business to try to protect jobs and essential frontline services wherever possible."

# Blaze at wooden former youth club

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at a former youth club building.

Crews were called to the fire in a foyer of the wooden building located in High Holborn, Sedgley.

The fire was spotted at around 9.40pm last Wednesday (November 2).

Fire crews from Dudley attended and dealt with the blaze using breathing apparatus and a hose reel.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said a 'stop message' was sent through by 11.20pm.

The cause of the blaze is still being investigated.

The spokesperson added: "The fire was in a youth club's timber building."

"There was a small fire in the foyer and we are still investigating the cause."



Man with a plan – intu chief financial officer Matthew Roberts at the Merry Hill shopping centre

## Planners back 200 homes scheme

A MAJOR housing and retail development has moved a step closer after an outline planning application was recommended for approval.

Up to 200 homes, retail facilities, a gym and restaurants would be created under ambitious plans for a former brickyard in Kingswinford.

The proposals on the vacant site of Ibstock Brick Ltd, off Stalling's Lane, are described as a 'landmark development' in the application submitted to Dudley Council.

In addition to the construction of up to 200 homes, the masterplan sets out a vision for 7,205 sq m of retail space, 700 sq m for gym and leisure

facilities, and a family pub or restaurant spanning 590 sq m. The application for the development, called 'Tansey Green', has been made by Ibstock Brick and Hawkins, on the site which was formerly used for clay extraction and brick manufacturing.

Outline plans were due to be discussed by councillors this week. They have been advised to approve the application by planning officers, who have said they do not believe the creation of the access road would impact on highway safety.

The scale and layout of the development will be discussed at a later stage.

## Theatre group prepare Last Tango in Tipton

THE Tipton-based Black Country Theatre is presenting its latest comedy production this weekend.

The Last Tango in Tipton is being staged in the theatre at The Comedian pub in New Road, Tipton, on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm, tickets £5.

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# Blueprint for expansion of Black Country museum site

A MASTERPLAN for the future of the Black Country Living Museum, to include a new visitor centre and extension of the tram line, has been backed by business bosses.

The expansion project, creating 90 jobs, has been given the thumbs up by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which has pledged to support its £10 million funding push.

Details of the ambitious development, which could include moving the site's entrance from Tipton Road to Castle Hill, were revealed earlier this year. The museum requires £10m in funding from the Heritage Lottery and the LEP has indicated it is ready to back the scheme.

A proposed letter of support for the development, which is due to be backed by members, said: "The project will offer significant economic benefits in terms of employment creation in its own right as well as having the ability to draw 200,000 additional visitors per year to the existing Castle Hill attractions."

A new visitor centre, exhibition space, and retail and cafe facilities would be created. The museum's tram line would also be extended to provide a circular route, looping around the attraction in a figure of eight.

A new industrial quarter and a 1940s to 60s town could also be added. Offices would be created and a total of 60 workers would be taken on with 29 apprentices.

A funding bid to Heritage Lottery is being prepared.

## MP's careers fair for young people

BUSINESS minister and Stourbridge MP Margot James is hosting another Aspirations Event tomorrow (Friday) in her constituency.

The Conservative MP will present a careers event on at the Glasshouse College, in Amblecote, from 4.30pm for two hours.

The event forms part of the MP's Raising Aspirations programme, which includes a series of workshops, seminars and networking fairs for young people. Students will be able to meet representatives from a number of businesses and organisations.

The MP said: "Whether going to university, becoming an apprentice or training for a job, I want every young person in Stourbridge to fulfil their potential."

## Academy status bid at primary

A PRIMARY school has launched a bid to become an academy.

Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge has applied for academy status, which would see it move away from local authority control.

# New weekly market switches to Saturday

A NEW weekly market will launch in Stourbridge town centre after the plans were backed by councillors.

The food and craft market will be held each Saturday on Lower High Street and Coventry Street.

LSD Promotions initially wanted to hold a market on Thursdays in High Street and Market Street, closing off the roads off to traffic.

But the company was forced to rethink the proposals following opposition from traders who were concerned about the impact closing two main streets to traffic would have on businesses.

The company went back to the drawing board and came up with new plans to move the market it already holds twice a month in the town to the pedes-

trianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

### Professional

Dudley Council's licensing committee gave the revised plans the go-ahead last week.

### Boost

Committee member Councillor Michael Evans said he believed the market would be a boost for Stourbridge.

He said: "We felt it would be very good for the town. They are a very professional company and came across quite strong."

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year.

LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town and offer something different but the chamber of trade voiced some concerns.

Speaking following the changes to the original plans, Dermot McGillicuddy, from LSD Promotions, said: "The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn't want High Street closed.

"If we are up by the clock we won't have to close the road.

"We believe to have a Thursday market we would have had to close the road. We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe we can look again at the Thursday market and discuss it again."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mayor gets boots ready for match

THE Mayor of Dudley will be kicking off a charity football match later this month involving Wolves All-Stars.

Dudley Town FC will take on ex-Wolves players in aid of the mayor's charities on November 27.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif will don his football boots and join in the action from 2.30pm at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill.

Tickets (£5 for adults, £3 concessions and free for under-10s) are from Steve Edwards on 07858 876649, from The Black Country T-Shirt Shop in Dudley and Pure Gym in Brierley Hill.

### MP hosted Scout trip to Parliament

YOUNG people and volunteers from the Beacon Explorer Scout Unit visited Parliament for a tour organised by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The group had a guided trip around the Palace of Westminster, including the chance to look inside the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The Labour MP has backed the work of local Scout groups. Mr Austin said: "I was a Cub Scout myself in Dudley, and I know from experience that the Scouts help young people to develop much-needed life skills."

### Access group is organising fair

THE Access in Dudley group is holding a Christmas craft fair later this month.

The event is being staged in the DY1 community building in Stafford Street on Saturday November 19 from 11am to 4pm.

Access in Dudley, formed in April 2004, helps disabled people across the borough.

It undertakes access audits of both inside and outside of buildings and leisure venues.

### Dahl's Witches take to arts centre stage

DUDLEY Little Theatre's next production is a stage version of Roald Dahl's creepy tale The Witches.

The play is being staged in Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road from December 8 to 11.

The family show starts at 7.30pm each day with matinees at 2.30pm on the Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are £8 available on 01384 872583 or visit [www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org).

### Talk on Wilde times

RACONTEUR, historian and jazz musician John Sparry will be giving a talk at the Birmingham and Midland Institute about Oscar Wilde in Stourbridge and Mrs Crippin in Dudley.

The hour-long talk is at 1pm tomorrow (Friday), costing £5 at the venue in Margaret Street. No need to book.

# Robbers who brandished fake gun are locked up

**A GROUP of thieves who used an imitation firearm to target four shops in one evening have been put behind bars.**

Lee Cartwright, 25, from Brompton Road, Brierley Hill, Wesley Bristow, 27, from Church Road, Stourbridge, and a teenager who cannot be named for legal reasons, attempted to steal from four shops in the Brierley Hill area on the evening of September 27 last year.

They only managed to get away with cigarettes and cigarette papers from one of the shops.

The group targeted three off-licences and a fish and chip shop but were only successful in stealing from one of the off-licences, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecuting, Graeme Molloy, said: "Across roughly two and a half hours they attempted to rob four shops at gunpoint.

"At the Premier Off Licence in Stourbridge, two of the group entered the shop and threatened the member of staff working at the time, who tried to defend himself by grabbing a glass bottle. As he did this, another bottle fell from a shelf and smashed, startling the pair and forcing them to leave.

### Spree

"At the Wine Cabinet in Quarry Bank, they asked a member of staff to give them money, but the alarm was raised, they ran out of the premises.

"At Kingsway Stores in Stourbridge, they got away with an amount of cigarettes and cigarette papers.

"Their final stop was at the Rock Fryer in Brierley Hill, a fish and chip shop where again they asked a member of staff to hand over money. When one of the group attempted to grab the till, they became involved in an altercation with the manager, before running out of the shop."

Police later found the Peugeot car, used to travel between shops, containing the cigarettes and papers.

The three were jointly charged with three counts of attempted robbery, one count of robbery and four counts of possessing an imitation firearm when committing an offence.

Each pleaded guilty, with Cartwright given a six year sentence, Bristow jailed for six years and four months and the teenager given a four year and six month sentence.

## Charley's locks lopped for charity



Charley Mantle with Liam Taylor, from Toni & Guy's in Wolverhampton, after her hair-raising challenge

IT was a case of hair today and gone tomorrow for Charley Mantle, who works at the Cradley Heath High Street branch of building society the West Brom.

Charley had her long locks chopped off in the name of charity.

The 23-year-old from King-swinford raised £500 for Teenage Cancer Trust, helping the West Brom break through the £20,000 barrier in just six months of supporting its nominated charity.

Charley also donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides wigs and hair pieces for children suffering from cancer.

She said: "I really wanted to do something for charity and the two organisations which benefited are brilliant causes. It was the first time I've had my hair cut in a good number of years and around 15 inches came off and was donated to Little Princess Trust."

"I was pretty nervous having so much cut off but, at the same time, it was exciting to be involved."

Charley's charity cut took place at Toni & Guy's, in Victoria Street, Wolverhampton.

Charley added: "The guys there were fantastic. They did the cut for free to ensure we could raise as much as possible for Teenage Cancer Trust and I'm very grateful for that."

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## IN MY VIEW



with Mark Andrews

# Inmates are leading us in a right merry dance

ALL does not seem to be well in HM Prison Service at the moment. First of all, we have had the riot at Bedfordshire jail, where two inmates were taken to hospital and the warders retreated to a "safe space" while the lags turned the place upside down, filming the jollity on mobile phones while they were at it.

Then, over at Pentonville nick, two inmates, including a would-be murderer, successfully made a dash for freedom after stuffing their pillows under the bedclothes to make the officers think they were asleep.

Still, nice to see those good old progressive bods at the Ministry of Justice have got a plan to bring order to the chaos. They are going to spend £8.4 million giving every jailbird a flat-screen telly, presumably in the belief that the miscreants would all become model citizens if only they were allowed to watch Ed Balls prance about on Strictly Come Dancing in high definition.

Not only that, thousands is being spent on new gym equipment, which will presumably get the lags in shape for the next time they fancy a dust-up on B-wing, or a to do a moonlight flit when they get a file in their birthday cake. One jail has even spent £30,000 employing a hairdresser. How can it cost 30 grand to give a few old lags a grade two back and sides?

This next question is probably naive in the extreme, and explains why people like me never get anywhere near the justice system, but I'm going to ask it anyway. Wouldn't it be better value to spend £8.4 million on a few extra prison officers to give the inmates under control?

□ □ □

STAYING with the justice system, former attorney general Dominic Grieve has launched a blistering attack on the tabloid press over its coverage of last week's High Court ruling that could derail Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Grieve accused some newspapers of demonstrating "fascist" behaviour, and compared their conduct with Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

He does protest too much, me thinks. After all, I would have thought a panel of judges over-ruling the result of a democratic vote to frustrate the will of voters would be right up Comrade Mugabe's street.

□ □ □

I WON'T pretend I understand the first thing about the latest cyber attack on Tesco bank, which has cleared out several customers' accounts.

But it does highlight once more just how vulnerable the internet is to fraudsters. And no matter what incentives the banks come up with, nothing convince me to take up internet banking.



Geoff McMillan – puzzled by missing name



New Zealand Defence Adviser Evan Williams with David Braithwaite at the ceremony



Jack Braithwaite – 'simple peacemaking'

# Shot at Dawn soldiers are now on memorial

Killed for mutiny, their stories were lost to history before one man's selfless quest to reveal them. **CLARE BUTLER** reports

## SOLDIERS shot dead for refusing to obey their own commanding officers have been commemorated 100 years on.

Jack Braithwaite of the New Zealand Otago Regiment, and William Lewis from Scotland were executed on October 29, 1916 while Jesse Robert Short, of Newcastle upon Tyne, was killed a year later.

Their names are inscribed on individual plaques attached to individual wooden stakes as part of the Shot at Dawn memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The three mutineers join 306 other men remembered in the memorial for alleged desertion or cowardice during the Great War.

Relatives and representatives of each of the men attended the special ceremony on Saturday from as far as New Zealand.

Jack Braithwaite's nephew, David Braithwaite, from New Zealand, aged 79, was one of them. He said: "My uncle was executed exactly 100 years ago today. It gives closure for our family. We have had some challenges over the past 20 years in trying to get recognised what we thought was wrong."

"My father was the youngest of a family of 24 children. He never told me or our family anything about Jack's demise and those were the days when mutiny was a scandal. I found out in the mid-1980s and slowly with the help of a lot of historians we thought that we should explore the pardons which we achieved in 2000 in New Zealand and 2006 in Britain. The thought process was very appropriate."

Jack Braithwaite had lost his stripe in May 1916 for being absent without leave.

But this was followed by three courts-martials in June and July 1916 for acts such as stating a falsehood to an officer, being absent without leave and two charges of escaping confinement and escaping while being escorted to



Families of the soldiers who were shot attend the service to commemorate their lives

a field punishment compound. Prison sentences with hard labour followed.

On August 28, 1916, an Australian soldier known as Private Little complained the hot water had run out in the showers at Blarney. As the matter escalated, Little yelled for his meal. Braithwaite, on mess orderly duties, took Little to his tent and gave him a meal.

His mistake was to take Little from the custody of a Staff Sergeant Shearing. Braithwaite was charged with mutiny along with others.

In his letter to the General Field Court-Martial, Jack would comment how Egypt simlar actions had been punished with seven or 14 days in prison or seven days' loss of pay and that he did not understand 'that a simple act of peacemaking could be brought to look like deliberate mutiny'. He was shot at 6.05am on October 29, 1916 – five minutes after Gunner Lewis, whose story remains more of a mystery.

Jesse Robert Short, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was executed in 1917. On September

11 of that year, Corporal Short was at the base camp at Etaples, France, where – having recovered either from wounds or illness – he was undergoing re-training before being returned to the frontline.

Disturbances broke out in the camp that day, and one group of 80 soldiers carrying placards and armed with sticks marched on a bridge across the river Canache.

Cpl Short tried to persuade the soldiers to lay down their arms, and referring to its commander, said: "Don't listen to that officer, that b\*\*\*r ought to have a rope tied round his neck with a stone on it and be chucked into the river."

Cpl Short was court-martialled the next day, found guilty of inciting mutiny and sentenced to death. He was executed weeks later. All three soldiers were subsequently pardoned.

Among the guests who attended the service were relatives of the soldiers – Bryan Ritchie and his wife, Marilyn, from Edinburgh on

William Lewis's behalf; Jack Braithwaite's nephew, David Braithwaite, from New Zealand, and his wife, Rae; and Jesse Robert Short's grandson, Neil Graham, among others along with other family members.

Mr Ritchie, from near Edinburgh, said: "I was there to represent my great-uncle who was shot at dawn 100 years ago today. I don't even know if my mum knows that her uncle existed. To think 100 years ago today my great-uncle stood in front of a firing squad and was shot at the age of 30. I've got mixed emotions. It's someone I didn't know but I'm here to represent my family. I thought the ceremony was very poignant."

During the 1914-18 war, 346 British and Commonwealth soldiers were executed – a higher figure than those recorded by both the French and Germans. The memorial's plaques are arranged in the form of a Greek theatre around the statue of Private Herbert Burden, of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who was shot at Ypres in 1915.

## Visited

The non-inclusion of mutineers' names and the absence in particular of Jack Braithwaite's name was highlighted by Western Front Association New Zealand member Geoff McMillan following a visit to the Arboretum in 2015.

Mr McMillan explained how he was puzzled to find Jack Braithwaite's name missing upon his visit last year and so set out on purpose of its inclusion. He said: "When I visited the Arboretum, I was moved to see how the names of hundreds of soldiers executed for desertion or cowardice in the First World War were recorded in the Shot at Dawn memorial, but puzzled that the name of fellow Kiwi Jack Braithwaite was missing."

When he did some research, he discovered the other two missing names.

Richard Purhouse and Lee Dent, of the Chase Project – a military history research group – assisted with the research and got in touch with the Shot at Dawn memorial artist, Andy DeComyn, who was keen to help.

The memorial was created by Mr DeComyn in 2000 as a gift to the relatives, and was unveiled by Gertrude Harris, daughter of Private Harry Farr, in June 2001.

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# Think about it before you criticise elders

HARDLY a week goes by without some reference to the problems caused by the 'baby boomers' taking valuable facilities. This is not just upsetting and unfair but inaccurate.

Ask yourselves, do older people fill our schools until there are not enough places for everyone? No, of course not. Do they seek to take all the jobs? No, they have done their share.

Do they demand social housing to accommodate the kids they had without thinking where they would put them? No, they left school at 15 and started work straight away, saved for about

10 years for a deposit and bought their own.

Do they expect benefits to feed them and pay for mobile phones, etc? No, they paid national insurance all their working lives (about 50 years) in the misguided belief that the money was going to fund a decent pension.

Even the hospitals, when I have visited one, the A&E department is often as full of children as old folks. It's not their fault, it is because GPs are so hard to get to see that worried parents end up in A&E because it is where everyone gets looked at eventually.

Finally the prisons, I have no idea what the average age of the inmates in our overcrowded prisons is, but I would bet it is not 65 plus.

So I say to the media, especially television, think before the term ageing population is used because as far as I know there is no thought being given to what is to happen to all the babies forming the present population explosion, many of whom will never experience work because technology has removed most of it.

**RON GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

## London will always get the money

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Bostin' busking for Action Heart charity

OCTOBER 22 saw a group of performers from John Langford's Maverick acoustic night come to the Cosy Café in Churchill precinct in Dudley. Under the banner of the Omma n' Chain Show and Black Country Radio with John's help and the support of Paul and all his staff at the cafe we held a Buskin' For Local Charity day.

On this occasion we decided to support Action Heart Dudley. We all have family members or friends who for one reason or another have heart surgery or related treatment. Action Heart play such an important role in getting individuals back on their feet. John was in fact part of the team that worked on the original concept for the incredible unit at Russells Hall so it was great to use the day to support a movement close to his own heart. I can only thank all the performers, young and old who gave up their time.

A special thanks to James Toft from one of my favourite bands Missing Link for handling the sound all day and to John for using his social media influence to get all the folks on site. Most of all thanks to the people who sat and listened and filled our collection box with their generous donation. The day raised £122.48.

**BRIAN DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)**

Tividale

## Ballet was more like a pantomime

UNFORTUNATELY I missed Leon Burakowski's review of The Tempest ballet however, I did read the letter from Jackie Adams in last week's paper defending the ballet production.

Considering I could not wait to leave at the first interval I think he hit the nail on the head, as my head was thumping from the discordant and physically painful score!

I have been a fan of both traditional and modern ballet and was so looking forward to this new production.

It was more like a pantomime and don't think it will become a classic.

Bless Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, etc, who compose beautiful music to listen too even without their wonderful ballets.

Leon, other members of the audience were leaving in front of me. So you weren't on your own in your opinion!

**NATALIE SHERWOOD**

Stourbridge

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# Mountain of rubbish is finally cleared away

IT has cost £2 million to remove a notorious rubbish heap that once towered 40ft near homes in Brierley Hill.

The mountain of waste has finally been completely cleared after blighting the area for seven years.

The former RDF site off Moor Street has been an infamous eyesore since 2009, after the firm allowed tonnes of waste to mount up.

The dispute over who was responsible went all the way to the High Court and in 2013 RDF company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove the rubbish.

Even after this legal action the gigantic waste heap remained, much to the frustration of residents whose homes overlooked the site. It has now been removed after agreement between the Environment Agency, the council and landowner, which saw the latter pick up the £2 million bill.

## Digger

The clear-up was overseen by the Environment Agency, and conducted by contractors Broad Environmental, with the equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools full of rubbish removed over 10 months.

The final scraps of rubbish were removed by a digger last week, leaving a clear expanse of land and empty warehouse now likely to be used for homes.

Among those at the site on the final day, was Marc Liddeth, environment manager at the Environment Agency.

"This is a fantastic news story for the local community, who have been very supportive and patient while unfortunately we had to deal with this situation and the waste that was here," he said.

"In total there was 25,000 cubic metres of waste and to put that into



Marc Liddeth (right) of the Environment Agency, with Dudley Council's Nick Powell (left) and Alistair Hilditch-Brown from Broad Environmental



The rubbish was piled high and left so long that plants had started to grow on it context, that's around about the size of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools."

The team from contractors Broad Environmental, who were given the mammoth task, also discovered that there was about 10,000 cubic metres more rubbish than initially thought, meaning that the whole operation has taken even more time.

"The landowner has effectively paid for the complete removal of this waste from the site, which has meant there has been no expense to the taxpayer. The landowner has had to spend in the region of £2 million," said Mr Liddeth. "This is clearly a strong reminder and warning to landowners out there about the consequences and ultimately the responsibility they have about clearing waste from their land."

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# Rap artist is on track to help cancer stricken pal

A WOLVERHAMPTON rap artist has unveiled a heartfelt track paying tribute to his childhood friend who has a rare form of cancer.

James 'Lem The Lyricist' Lyman, aged 22, is aiming to spread awareness and raise funds for his lifelong pal Latham Grant, through his song My Day One.

Latham, 21, from Dudley, who plays for Stafford Rangers Football Club, is raising £40,000 for specialist treatment in Mexico for his nasopharyngeal cancer, which affects fewer than one in 100,000 people.

James, whose songs have featured on BBC radio, filmed the music video with his and Latham's family and friends outside St John's Church in Wolverhampton city centre.

## Prayers

The former pupil of Dormston School, in Sedgley, said: "Latham has been more like a brother to me than a friend. The song is a message to say get better soon and come home better from treatment, and a thank you for everything he has done for me. He is feeling much better in himself lately."

Latham has already been to Mexico for the start of his treatment, and plans to return in February, James said the track took him around 40 minutes to write.

"Family and friends took part in the music video including Latham's brothers Jarrod and Casey. Latham's family were there, who are Christians and they said prayers."

The music video has appeared on the YouTube channel of the UK-based production company P110 and has amassed more than 3,000 views.

In the video, James and fellow cast members wear grey jumpers which have a picture of Latham on the front in a boxing stance. On the back are



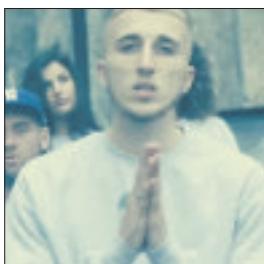
Latham with his mother Tracy, father Chris and girlfriend Suzanna

the back of the jumpers are the words 'Lath The Living Proof'. It is to show there is alternative therapy out there for cancer aside from mainstream."

Latham was diagnosed with the cancer on June 22. One in 100,000 people with cancer have the disease which affects the throat, nasal passages and lymph nodes of patients.

Latham could go down the route of chemotherapy and radiotherapy but in his case this can have as low as two per cent success on someone with an already strong immune system.

Therefore, after hours of research, he decided to raise money for an alternative treatment in Mexico, including oxygen therapy and an alkaline diet.



James 'Lem The Lyricist' Lyman

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The business has grown steadily since its formation in 2006, which is mainly due to its work ethic as stated by managing director Dave Walters: "If a job's worth doing it's worth doing right".

It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly-employed fitting teams. DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium over the first ten years in business, and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more.

Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself.

D.W. Windows now directly employ 30 local people and Dave Walters insists on teamwork and reliability from all of his staff, which are the main reasons that they are going from strength to strength in a very competitive industry.

Claire Walters is proud to be able to say that: "At least 7 out of 10 of our enquiries come from recommendations or previous customers who want to use us again".

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The company plans to move into 2017 with a brand new website and a third showroom. The company has also just reached the finals of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce awards for customer service and outstanding achievement.

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## Plan to develop derelict pub site

AN EYESORE pub which has blighted an estate for more than a decade looks set to be knocked down.

The Commercial Inn in Pensnett but has been empty for more than 10 years.

A campaign was launched by fed-up neighbours last year to try the site redeveloped.

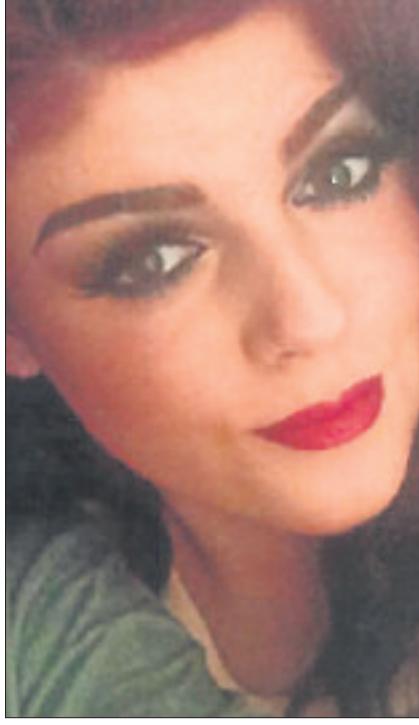
A developer has now come forward with proposals to demolish the derelict pub and build nine apartments in its place.

And the plans have been backed by council officers, who have recommended members of the planning committee give the scheme the go-ahead when they meet this week.

Around 1,500 people signed a petition launched by the Corbys Bromley Tenants and Residents Association calling for action over the building.

The pub has become a magnet for vandals. First-floor windows have been smashed and the ground floor boarded up.

## School pays tribute to crash victim Georgie



Georgie Ann Evans – former Kinver High School pupil

A SCHOOL is mourning a former student who died in a car crash in Dudley. Georgie Ann Evans died in at the scene of the accident in Priory Road, at the junction of Cedar Road, on October 27. A man has appeared before magistrates charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Former Kinver High School pupil Miss Evans, of Himley, was driving a Ford Fiesta involved in a collision with an Audi. A man in his 20s, a passenger in the Fiesta, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital with neck and back injuries.

Chris Rogers, headteacher at Kinver High School, said: "She was a genuinely lovely girl who worked really hard and had a lovely group of friends. She left with great GCSEs. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her family and friends."

Kuba Oles, 24, of Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court charged with causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at and report a road accident. He will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 28.

## Drug farm in house was found by chance

POLICE found a drugs farm in Dudley capable of producing up to £19,000 worth of cannabis by chance.

Officers had gone to the address on an unrelated inquiry, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. But they detected the tell-tale smell of the drug while at the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, on May 4. A total of 25 plants were found under cultivation with the assistance of hydroponic growing systems in the garage and an upstairs bedroom. These had the potential to produce cannabis worth between £6,300 to £18,900, depending on the crop's quality.

Shane Cunningham, who lives at the property, admitted it was his drug farm but maintained it was for his personal use. Cunningham, who had no previous convictions, admitted producing cannabis and was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to do 150 hours' unpaid work. Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey said: "Cannabis can, and does, ruin lives."

# Thug jailed after 100mph chase ends with an assault

**A FEUD** between two men accelerated into a 100 mph chase that ended with one of them being knocked down by passing traffic.

Christopher Groves was trying to flee on foot after his Astra got stuck in a jam at Burnt Tree, Dudley, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The car had been pursued along Birmingham New Road from its junction with Sedgley Road West by a distinctive black and white Audi A3 with Kirk Garner at the wheel.

The 37-year-old's ex-girlfriend was allegedly 'having difficulties' with Mr Groves, whom Garner spotted by chance while driving through the area and decided to teach him a lesson, said Mr Richard Franck, prosecuting.

Garner and his two passengers leapt out of the Audi when the Astra stopped, smashing its back window and hitting Mr Groves on the head with a 'blunt instrument,' thought to be a hammer, which caused a gash.

Mr Groves, a baksman, frantically tried to escape but ran into the path of a vehicle causing a serious injury to an ankle that still blights his life almost three years later, the court heard.

He told police that during the attack he had feared for his life.

The defendant drove off with his passengers – who have not been traced – and the Audi was found burned out several days later.

He handed himself in to police days after his picture and an appeal for him to come forward were published in the Express & Star almost a year after the December 5, 2013 incident.

Garner from Toll End Road, Tipton pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm and dangerous driving. He was jailed for two years three months by Judge James Burbidge QC.



Kirk Garner – put behind bars

## Homelessness bill is backed

AN MP from Dudley has backed a bill to help tackle homelessness during a crucial vote in Parliament.

Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South, joined MPs in backing the Homelessness Reduction Bill at its second reading this week, helping to bring the bill one step closer to becoming law.

Proposed by Bob Blackman MP and supported by homelessness charities including Crisis, the bill could transform the help available to homeless people in the West Midlands and across the country.

Conservative MP Mr Wood said: "This is about social justice – nobody should be forced to sleep rough because they can't get the help they need. I've personally heard from local constituents who were unable to get help when they became homeless and it's time we took action."

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storm



# Police no longer visit scene to deal with thefts at pumps

Hello bab, welcome to Dudley Zoo family



The baby gelada baboon in the enclosure at Dudley Zoo with parents Ebano and Jimma

DUDLEY Zoo are welcoming a new addition to their baboon family.

The zoo's third gelada baboon baby was born on October 19 to first-time mum, nine-year-old Jimma and dad, Ebano, aged 11, at the Castle Hill attraction.

Keepers are busy trying to determine the gender of the youngster and will begin brainstorming ideas for a name.

## Nursing

Jade Reddall, primate keeper, said: "Jimma is doing a fantastic job nursing and carrying the newborn and after helping Addis and Tana care for Billie and Ambo for the last two years, she will have picked up a thing or two.

Dad is also being protective over his youngest offspring and the baby seems very alert.

"We've even spotted Billie and Ambo both grooming the little one, so they're all doing the right things and we're all excited with the newest addition."

## Firms visit Dubai to find export opportunities

TEN construction companies from the Midlands are heading to Dubai later this month as part of a Midlands Engine visit to fly the flag for British expertise and innovation.

The delegation, organised by the Department for International Trade (DIT) in the Midlands, will see the businesses visit The Big 5 exhibition.

It is the largest construction event in the Middle East with more than 3,000 exhibitors from 142 countries involved. The Midlands representatives will be flying out on November 20 to get ready for the exhibition, which takes place between November 21 and 25.

**POLICE** investigating 'bilking' incidents no longer visit the targeted petrol stations – instead relying on an online crime reporting tool to save man hours.

West Midlands Police is called to 20 fuel thefts each day. The force used to send officers to the stations within five days to investigate.

But in a bid to save 7,300 officer hours each year, police are changing their approach – beginning inquiries with a phone call rather than a visit.

The petrol station is then asked to send through CCTV footage via a secure online crime reporting tool called Facewatch, or in a pre-paid envelope. It is part of a modernisation programme at the force called WMP2020.

The move has already received approval from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, which published a report last week praising the force's efficiency.

**Report by Alex Ross**

Force spokesman Billy Corrigan said the change in approach to bilking followed widespread consultation with other UK police forces, petrol station managers and the British Oil Security Syndicate.

He said: "Previously, once a driver was reported to police for not paying for fuel, an appointment was made for an officer to visit the business – up to five days after the offence – collect CCTV and take a statement from staff.

## Travel

"Each visit, including travel time, took between an hour and a half and two hours. Only then would the investigation begin.

"Under the new system, a victim will report a crime and an officer will call them back.

"All of the details will be taken and a crime number issued, which signals the start of a criminal investigation.

"If there's CCTV of the offence, petrol station staff will be asked to upload this to Facewatch – a secure online crime reporting tool – or send us a disc in a pre-paid envelope."

Mr Corrigan said the crime would be investigated in the same way, but with officers in possession of details and evidence sooner.

We will then investigate in exactly the same way with the added advantage that we've captured the details sooner so can investigate quicker.

He added: "The force investigates around 20 fuel thefts each day.

The revised system will see a potential of 7,300 officer hours saved each year in addition to savings on travel which will be channelled back in to achieving the force vision of preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need.

"This is just one of the improvements being made to policing in the West Midlands through WMP2020, the force's modernisation programme."

## Officers urging caution after a man approaches girls near school

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been warned not to walk alone after a man tried to lure two girls into his car in the Black Country.

The teenagers were approached by a man in a silver Peugeot near Earls High School, Halesowen. They managed to get away and alert teachers.

A letter was sent to parents following the incident at 7.45am on Monday of last week advising that children should walk in groups.

The teenagers were walking to the Furnace Lane school when they were approached by the man.

Assistant head Nigel Ford said the girls 'skillfully managed to remove themselves from the situation'.

The school contacted the police.

In the letter to parents, Mr Ford said: "It is an absolute priority at Earls High School that we do everything we can to protect our students and safeguard them from any risks. We have taken advice from the police and they have asked us to inform parents and carers that it is of the utmost importance, particularly during winter months, that students commute in groups."

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## Mayor to light up Cradley Heath

THE Mayor of Sandwell will switch-on the Christmas lights in Cradley Heath High Street on Saturday.

Events get under way on the High Street from 3pm, including festive market, funfair, charity stalls and free entertainment from the likes of Cradley Heath Creative's Oss Box which will be decorated as Santa's Grotto.

Events are due to finish at 7pm, after the switch-on by mayor Councillor Julie Webb, which is to take place at 5pm.

Wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whaley MBE will be switching on the lights in Halesowen town centre on November 19, which features Santa's sleigh organised by the Rotary Club.

# Jailed brothers 'rue the day' they got involved with drugs

**TWO drug dealing brothers had over £6,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis along with nearly £6,000 cash at their home when it was raided by police, a judge heard.**

There were 19 cannabis plants under cultivation in a bedroom with the help of a hydroponic system to speed growth, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Cocaine valued at almost £4,000 was discovered in the bedroom of 28-year-old music producer Paul Lawrence, along with £2,400 worth

of cannabis. Brother Liam, 27, a refuse collector, had cocaine with a value of £480 in his bedroom with £5,755 cash, said Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting.

Police discovered a set of digital scales, a grinder and several dealer lists when they swooped on the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, and a car parked outside on June 20.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending both men, said: "They rue the day that they became involved with drugs. These offences were blips in what has been otherwise productive and law abiding lives."

He explained that father-of-one Liam had developed a drug habit a year and a half before the police raid and father-of-four Paul had been threatened over a debt to a drug dealer. He had been issued with the ultimatum of selling drugs for the dealer or facing the consequences.

Both men admitted possession of cocaine with intent. Paul Lawrence further pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis and cultivating it. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years. Liam Lawrence admitted acquiring criminal property and was locked up for 20 months.

## Festive fair at Beacon Centre

SHOPPERS can pick up some unique Christmas crafts and gifts at a fair which is being held by leading sight loss charity, the Beacon Centre.

The festive fun will take place on November 24 at the centre on Wolverhampton Road East in Sedgley between 6pm and 9pm. Those who go along will be able to browse the stalls and pick up some unusual gifts for their loved ones.

Stallholders will be selling a range of items including jewellery, homemade cakes, Christmas themed sweets, stocking fillers and tree decorations. There will also be a chance to buy a drink and a cake from the coffee bar, visit the charity shop or look around the centre's new opticians.

Admission is £1 per adult and children under 16 are free.

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## Suspect is named in stabbing murder case



Niron Parker-Lee – should not be approached by the public

POLICE have named a key suspect wanted in connection with a murder in Brierley Hill.

Niron Parker-Lee, 19, from Brierley Hill, is wanted in connection with the death of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood.

A murder probe was launched after Mr Mahmood was found stabbed in the stomach on the High Street at around 4.45pm on October 15, when he staggered bleeding into a shop. Fatally wounded, he later died in hospital.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison, from West Midlands Police homicide team, said: "It's important we locate Niron Parker-Lee as soon as possible. I would urge anyone with information about his whereabouts to contact us."

### Dangerous

"Someone knows where this man is and I'd remind them that harbouring a wanted man is a criminal offence."

Parker-Lee is described as dangerous and should not be approached by the public.

Anyone who can help is urged to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Any sightings of Niron Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately via the emergency number 999.

## Recruitment drive is launched by police

MORE than 11,000 people have expressed an interest in joining West Midlands Police as part of its latest recruitment drive.

The force is taking on 1,150 new staff, including 800 officers, over the next three years.

WMP Chief Constable David Thompson described the unprecedented level of interest in joining the force as "fantastic".

He told a meeting of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's strategic board that 23 per cent showing an interest in joining the force were from black or minority ethnic backgrounds. He added that, although more people were coming forward from ethnic minority communities, the figure was still below the force's target. He said: "We have seen a lot of interest from South Asian communities. We are still focusing our attentions on communities where we are not seeing a lot of expressions of interest from."

# That's spooky! We just got engaged on Halloween night

A COUPLE who are horror movie fans got engaged at a spooky Halloween night in a first for the Black Country Living Museum.

Jade Jones, from Wolverhampton, agreed to assist during a knife throwing show, when she thought she had been randomly chosen as a volunteer from the audience by the performers at the Tipton Road attraction.

Little did she know that the two knife throwers were in on the act as they blindfolded the 21-year-old.

## Propose

Boyfriend Daniel Guy, 21, from Cannock, got down on one knee to propose in front of an excited crowd. A surprised Jade said yes.

Jade and Daniel first met five years ago as friends when students on an animal care course at Rodbast-

ton College. They only recently got back in contact with each other after a personal tragedy saw Jade lose her baby Alfie.

Sam, who comes from a travelling community and asked her mother's permission first, said they're now set for a big fat gypsy wedding in summer 2018.

Dan, aged 21, who works as a warehouse operative, said: "I'm so happy now, it was a bit overwhelming at the time."

"I want to thank the museum for everything they did."

Jade, who wasn't expecting the proposal, said: "It was a total surprise. And we've gone viral online – it's had 8,200 views."

Knife thrower Stephen Harley said: "It was a great honour to be a part of Black Country Living Museum making dreams a reality."



Jade Jones and Daniel Guy, both 21, outside the Bottle & Glass Inn at the Black Country Living Museum

# Stolen bus chase gang are sent behind bars

THREE men who ignored pursuing police for 12 miles while going for a ride in a stolen bus have been put behind bars.

Banned driver John Burton even carried on when two tyres of the single decker were burst by a 'stinger' laid across Penn Road, Wolverhampton, by police.

The vehicle continued on its wheel rims – and even overtook a car – while listing alarmingly and leaving a tell-tail trail of sparks in its wake.

The bus – tailed from the Shropshire border by a police helicopter and patrol cars with flashing lights and sirens – careered through a red traffic light without stopping in Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

It then went the wrong way round a traffic island, knocked down a road sign, clipped the kerb and tore off part of its bodywork causing £10,000 worth of damage in a collision with a fence. But still it did not stop, revealing Mr Ian Windridge, prosecuting.

## Caught

The Sandwell Travel vehicle finally came to a standstill in The Paddock, Bilston, where the driver and two passengers made a run for it but were quickly caught.

Two men had been seen stealing the bus from the company's base in Tinsley Street, Tipton, on March 30. The pursuit started at 2.20am the next day – six hours later – when it triggered an automatic number

plate recognition camera while heading towards Wolverhampton through Rudge Heath.

Mr Windridge continued:

"Those on board knew the police were behind them but carried on for at least 10 minutes."

Neither 38-year-old Burton, of Beaconsfield, Brookside, Telford, nor his passengers – Simon Loveland, 39, from Dale Close, Tipton and Thomas Tibbs, 21, of Clinic Drive, Stourbridge – admitted stealing the single decker but all pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking on the grounds of either driving or being carried in it. They had all been drinking.

Mr Andrew Hutchinson, defending, conceded: "It is only by the grace of God that serious injury was not caused to anybody."

Judge James Burbidge QC jailed Burton for 16 months and Loveland for a year. They had 37 and 31 previous convictions respectively.

Tibbs got a six-month term because of his age and single previous conviction.

# Appeal to trace teenager after window smashed

POLICE are appealing for information after a lump of concrete was thrown through a house window on Halloween night in Hagley, near Stourbridge.

The incident happened just after 9pm on October 31 at a property in Hawthorn Coppice.

West Mercia Police want to trace a teenage boy who went to the address shortly afterwards. The youth sought is believed to be aged around 16.

Nobody was injured as a result of the incident.

A spokesman for the West Mercia Police said: "We are particularly keen on speaking to a boy, aged approximately 16 years, who went to the property 10 minutes after the incident who may have crucial information."

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 and quote incident 870S of October 31, 2016. Or information can be provided anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org website.

# Children in charge as pub celebrates

A PUB in Woodsetton is giving children the chance to take over Christmas for one day only.

The Bramford Arms Hungry Horse pub on Park Road is searching for five local children to take charge of this year's festivities, including decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping presents, and putting up decorations.

The competition is open to children aged between four and 10 years old with the winning child joining four other winners from across the UK to take part in the Kidsmas video filming. Each lucky winner will bag themselves a £250 Toys R Us voucher. The pub will be also offering to celebrate the season of goodwill with a free Christmas meal from the new festive menu for every child who enters the competition.

Daniel Phillips, general manager at the Bramford Arms, said: "From decorating the Christmas tree to icing cakes, we've got loads of fun and festive activities in store, so we can't wait to see what Woodsetton's most creative kids come up with."

To enter your child into the 'Kidsmas' competition, visit [www.hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas](http://www.hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas).

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# Jaws 2 as Brummie band bite back

## ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

**SIMPLICITY**, second album from Jaws, is a Brummie blend of dream pop with swirling shoegazer rock.

Formed in the Second City four years ago, the trio have been identified with the 'B-Town scene' which also produced Peace and Swim Deep, and they toured with the former after the release of their debut album Be Slowly in 2014.

Simplicity is likeable but not perfect, Connor Schofield's voice seems low in the mix. Their neo-psychadelic sound has hints of The Cure and a dance influence but is let down by some baggy clunkers. See Jaws at The Rainbow on December 2.

Essex boy made good via The X Factor, Ollie Murs has hit a slick groove of easy-on-the-ear pop with his fifth album 24 HRS, on which he has written all but one of the songs.

The album includes the singles You Don't Know Love and Grow Up and is released in standard and deluxe versions, the latter with four extra tracks.

Murs is due to play three consecutive nights at the Genting Arena from March 23, and has already sold out two.

From pop punk to stadium rock, Oakland's over-rated **Green Day** have become the kind of rock dinosaurs they once wanted to subvert. Well, that's getting older for you. And probably nobody would have guessed that their back catalogue would have provided a musical theatre hit in American Idiot.

Twenty two years on from their breakthrough with Dookie, Billie Joe Armstrong and co sound like The Who on **Revolution Radio** opener Somewhere Now. But mostly its the familiar



Birmingham indie band Jaws are back with second album Simplicity

the O2 Institute in Birmingham on November 29.

Blending riot grrl attitude with sharp and melodic power pop, **Honeyblood** mark II's new album **Babes Never Die** is a treat from Glaswegian singer-guitarist Stina Tweedale and her new tub-thumper Cat Myers. The duo play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 19.

Punk, psychedelia and early Pink Floyd are among the influences on **Clear Shot**, the defiantly lo-fi third album from **Toy**, the band most likely to be a UK equivalent to the Flaming Lips or Tame Impala. Highlights include Dream Orchestrator with its epic wall of sound. Prepare to have your mind expanded when they play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 22.

Ten years on from their debut, Irish hard rock outfit **The Answer** sound re-energised on their sixth album, **Solas**, which begins with its brooding Led Zep-like title track. Singer Cormac Neeson establishes himself as a prince of wails as the band's blues rock sound absorbs eastern and Celtic influences. The Answer are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2 on November 19.

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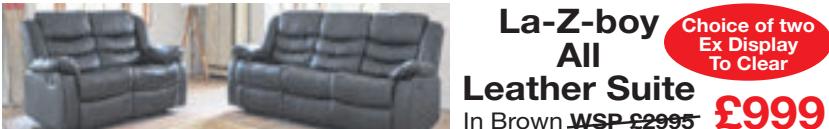
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# Bonfire Night sparks 350 calls to firefighters



Part of the spectacular display at Himley Hall which attracted huge crowds for its 40th anniversary event

BONFIRE Night brought double the number of incidents for the West Midlands fire service this year – with over 350 call-outs.

As thousands of people braved the cold on Saturday to catch a glimpse of some of the Black Country's best firework displays, the service reported that they received 356 calls during the evening, up from 197 the previous year. However, the majority of the calls were to small secondary, outdoor fires, mostly after people had lit bonfires on grass. They were also called to instances of smoke going into people's homes.

At Himley Hall, crowds gathered to celebrate the event's 40th year. Its biggest bonfire to date saw more than 1,500 wooden pallets used to build the bonfire and two kilometres of fuse wire was used to electronically spark the impressive fireworks.

Wolverhampton Racecourse's display was led by Signal 107 and compere Dicky Dodd. Whilst in Walsall, the Arboretum was awash with hundreds of sparkling fireworks and the event also featured Britain's Got Talent stars Stavros Flatley and included a music stage.

However, the firework display at

Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, left some visitors disappointed.

The event, which was the busiest in years, allegedly saw some visitors turned away by security who were trying to keep control of the crowds.

Sandwell council released a statement on their Facebook page regarding the event. It said: "We're sorry to hear from people who were disappointed by the bonfire night at Dartmouth Park."

It was incredibly busy and we're taking on board your feedback to understand the issues and help us organise future events."

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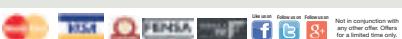
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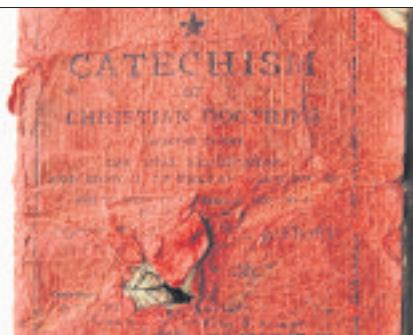


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Edwin Harris photographed in the 1930s, a decade he would not have seen had it not been for the prayer book

# How the power of prayer saved a soldier's life

A BLACK Country man survived being shot by a sniper during the Battle of the Somme – because of a small prayer book in his pocket.

It was September 1916 when Private Edwin Harris from Darlaston stormed German lines with the South Staffordshire Regiment.

After three or four weeks living in muddy, rat-infested conditions near Thiepval, his unit were sent 'over the top' and as they advanced towards the German lines, Private Harris was hit by sniper fire.

A bullet pierced his groin and exited just underneath his ribcage – but the prayer book took some of the potentially deadly momentum out of the projectile.

His colleagues carried him to safety on a stretcher while dodging gunfire.

The story has been told for the first time by Private Harris's son Ray. He remembers being sat down at the age

## MEMORY LANE

By Luke Bartlett

of 10 by his father who wanted to explain the war wounds on his body.

Ray, who is now 87, said: "Their Sergeant called for them to keep down because there was a German sniper. The sniper had already shot several men. Apparently my dad didn't keep down enough and he was hit."

### Pocket

"The bullet went straight through the book in his pocket and then into his groin. Dad heard one of them say 'Good God it's gone right through him.'

Ray, who lives in Kingswinford, explained: "They had to lift him up above the top of the trench and carry him like that. There were places the men couldn't get the stretcher around the corners. He was conscious during all of it. He said there were bullets flying about him."

After the ordeal, all of Private Harris's possessions were sent back to his parents when he recovered. Included was the prayer book that saved his life, a bullet-hole torn right through its core.

"It's only a little red book, about half an inch thick. It was given to me by his father – my grandfather," said Ray. "The book is still something I look at occasionally. It's stored away in a leather case."

"It's just something that means an awful lot to me."

Lucky enough to make it home, Edwin found himself battling the scars of war – both physical and mental.

"Dad did suffer from the wound for a long time afterwards," Ray said. "As the years went on I think he might have suffered something they call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In those days it was different, they just had to get on with it."

"He ended up as an insurance agent. He was a very ordinary man but it was an extraordinary experience that he went through."



Ray Harris, of Kingswinford, hold the prayer book that saved his father during the Battle of the Somme

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## Charity curry with the mayor

THE Mayor of Dudley will be hosting a curry night next week to raise funds for his nominated charities.

The Rose of Kashmir restaurant in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, has agreed to host the event starting at 7pm on Tuesday. Tickets cost £10 and will include a set menu and entertainment during the evening.

Tickets are available in advance by calling 07412 531924 or calling the restaurant on (01384) 235673.

### Support

Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "I invite people to come along and enjoy a fabulous meal and help support some worthy organisations at the same time."

All profits from the night will be donated to the mayor's chosen charities, which include the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Dudley CIL and Diabetes UK Dudley branch.

# Grand Central sees surge in passengers as Metro booms

**TENS of thousands of extra passengers have been using the Midland Metro every week since it opened its new link to Birmingham's Grand Central shopping centre.**

The surge in people taking to the tram comes in the wake of a £128 million project, which has seen the introduction of a new fleet of 21 Urbos 3 trams, and the refurbishment of the Metro's depot at Wednesbury.

The extension opened at the end of May and new figures show the number of passengers using the Metro each week between June and October is up by an average of 28 per cent, with

126,000 passengers now using the trams each week.

Alongside the thousands of commuters leaving their cars at home, Metro bosses believe they are also seeing a big increase in people using the tram system for shopping and leisure.

During October's school half-term there was an impressive 43 per cent increase in passenger numbers compared to the same period last year.

### Authority

The Metro is operated by National Express West Midlands under contract to Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) – part of the region's new combined authority.

Councillor Roger Horton, lead member for rail and Metro, said: "While the Metro's 99 per cent reliability and quick journey times has always made it popular with weekday commuters, these half-term figures along with big increases in weekend use suggest many more people are now using the Metro for shopping and other leisure pursuits."

Work continues on extending the Metro route from New Street Station to Centenary Square, with services expected to start running in 2019.

In Wolverhampton, work has started on the £18m city centre extension. TfWM says a business case is being prepared to extend the Metro from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

## History talk on royal meeting

KING Henry VIII will be in the spotlight during a talk hosted by Stourbridge Historical Society.

Dr Gillian White will present Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday (November 17) at 7.30pm.

The Field of Cloth of Gold was a meeting which took place in June 1520 between Henry VIII and Francis I of France. The purpose of the event was to increase the bonds of friendship between their two countries. It did not achieve a great deal politically but the meeting was famed for its glamour and extravagance.

The talk will take place in the Wollaston Room and everyone is welcome to attend the event. For more details about the programme of talks visit [www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com)

## Technology to boost police



21st Century policing with smart phones and body-worn video cameras – Pc Louise Ruddick and Pc Mairead-Amelia Arnold are ready to go on the beat in the West Midlands

COPS kitted out with body cameras and smart phones will be expected to tackle more crime under the latest plans to bring West Midlands Police into the 21st century.

The 2020 scheme involves the biggest ever overhaul of how the force operates and was instigated in the face of swinging cuts that have seen £126 million wiped off the police budget in the last five years.

Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe, who is responsible for delivering the project, said equipping officers with new technology will enable them to be more efficient.

Although the force is in the midst of a recruitment drive to take on 800 officers, it is set to lose a similar number of officers due to retirements.

### Intelligence

"The new ways of working will enable us to deal with demands more efficiently and allow us to meet the growing demands," she said. "We are grappling with a legacy of a number of years of austerity and it takes some time to turn that tanker around."

The new systems available to officers include 24/7 support from the force's intelligence department, which has teams in Wednesfield and Willenhall, while almost all police cars will be fitted with data recorders.

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# Cake maker hopes for a golden ticket

A TALENTED cake maker from Walsall is hoping she has the golden ticket at this year's Cake International with her edible Willy Wonka creation.

The world's largest cake competition got under way at Birmingham NEC over the weekend.

Cake International is the largest display of cake competition pieces, demonstrators and industry experts from around the world. It teaches the newest trends in the cake world and features stands full of must-have baking and sugarcrafting essentials.

Lara Mason from Brownhills is putting yet another one of her masterpieces forward as the eccentric chocolate factory boss from Roald Dahl's classic book.

## Role

Inspired by the late Gene Wilder in the title role of Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, Lara entered her cake into the large decorative exhibit section of the competition. In previous years, she has won gold with life-like cakes of Jennifer Lawrence, Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow and of Prince George.

The 30-year-old said: "I found out I was pregnant in July so I decided

I wasn't going to do it but later decided that if other people can do it whilst pregnant I can too so I'll give it a go. At the start of the pregnancy I was suffering from a lot of sickness so having the cake to work on took my mind off it. I've been making cakes now for about five years because I just thought I should give it a go and started by making my mother-in-law's anniversary cake."

Lara decided to craft a figure of Gene Wilder, who played Willy Wonka in the 1971 original film, in tribute to the actor and to mark what would have been Roald Dahl's 100th birthday.

"Willy Wonka was one of the most iconic characters and I'm sure he would've wanted to make himself out of sugar," says Lara. "I stick on a Roald Dahl movie and just get on with it – it's relaxing."

Juliet Schofield from Wolverley was putting last preparations together for the big day as she was taking part in a fairytale forest exhibition, presented by Sugar Show Productions. More than 20 cake artists have been working together to present the range of enchanting and mythical creatures. Juliet owns her own cake shop, Marzipan Moon and Sugar Dust Stars, in Stourbridge.

Brownhills cake artist Lara Mason with her latest creation, Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka from the 1971 movie



# All aboard! More than 1,000 rush to apply for SVR shares

MORE than 1,000 people registered their interest to buy shares at Severn Valley Railway in the first day they were on sale.

The railway is offering people the chance to buy shares up to £2.5 million to fund its £5 million development at its Bridgnorth site.

During the first day of the share offer teams at Severn Valley Railway processed about 1,200 preliminary enquiries from people registering their interest in buying shares with many more web and email enquiries coming overnights but yet to be counted.

Severn Valley Railway general manager, Nick Ralls, said: "It has been such an important year for us here already at the Severn Valley Railway having played host to Flying Scotsman some six weeks ago and I think September's Pacific Power event has certainly helped boost interest in the share offer.

"There is also the added appeal of buying shares, rather than simply donating money – shareholders become owners of a little bit of the railway.

"Of course buying shares offers other more tangible benefits such as travel concessions but I think the real appeal goes beyond even the very satisfying act of helping preserve the heritage for future generations and lies with the chance to take ownership of such an important piece of living history.

"Encouragingly work has already started at Bridgnorth even though the share offer has only just launched. We have just installed a new electricity supply and major groundworks will start in mid-November."

# Drunk started fire at his ex-girlfriend's flat

## Fizzogs Faba Euro bid



Sue Hawkins, left, and Deb Nicholls form Faba who are ready to take on the Eurovision by storm with hits like Portaloo and For Nandos

THE Black Country's answer to Swedish supergroup Abba are hoping fans will take a chance on them as they launch a bid to represent the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Faba, comprising two of the Fizzogs' comedy troupe famous for their Dancing Grannies, feel ready to take their Black Country take on Eurovision to the masses.

"Thanks to Brexit, this may be the UK's last chance to get into Europe," quipped Deb Nicholls, one half of Faba. The Quarry Bank-based duo, also including Sue Hawkins, aim to take part in the BBC's annual songfest, with a break-up ballad called Nigel.

The group's songwriter-director

Ross Simpson said: "The band may be spoof but we have actually entered the contest with a real song and we're hoping to get a record deal out of it."

Faba emerged out of the girls' original Abba tribute band Amya, launched in 2008 to raise money for Fizzog colleague Jacky Fellows' charity marathon run.

The sketch went down a storm in their show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe where international audiences loved the affectionate spoof on Abba. They have been recording songs including For Nando's, Dirty Dancing Queen and Portaloo.

Some of the numbers will feature in their show at Netherton Arts Centre on December 15.

**A DRUNKARD whose life had been destroyed by booze started a fire at the home of his former partner, a judge heard.**

Robert Gordon lost his job and 35-year marriage as a result of his drinking, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

His four-year relationship with Lisa White had also hit the rocks, revealed Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Months after that break up, the 62-year-old called at her flat in Sydney Road, Cradley Heath, and was allowed to stay until he could find permanent accommodation.

On March 15, Ms White left the living room to prepare some food for him and returned to find the floor on fire. Gordon, who had been drinking heavily, told her: "I am going to burn you out."

Mr Searle said: "He suggested that he had lost everything because of her and now she was going to lose everything too."

## Firefighters

A cushion was set alight and the blaze spread to a chair. The flames were quickly extinguished by firefighters but the property suffered smoke damage. Gordon and his ex-partner were treated for smoke inhalation.

She later told police: "There was no reason for him to do this. We had not been arguing or anything like that."

Mr Simon Warlock, defending, told the court: "He has little memory of what happened but knows that alcohol is the root cause of his problems. He had been drinking heavily and did something exceedingly stupid. He knows he cannot go back to drinking again. It explains the ending of a 35-year marriage and the fact that his two daughters, who he cares for very much, have not spoken to him for a few years."

"The seven months he has spent in custody waiting for this case to be resolved has given him time to think."

Gordon, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to committing arson when reckless as to whether life was endangered. He was jailed for 18 months and banned from having contact with his former partner.

## Bags of help for community projects

TWO nature reserves and two community garden projects in the Dudley borough will receive cash windfalls.

Saltwells Nature Reserve, Fens Pool Nature Reserve, the Growing our Community Together project and Jasmine Road Community Gardens will each receive a minimum of £8,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

The scheme is being run by Tesco and Groundwork under the 5p shopping bag levy.

People can help to boost the amount for each project to £10,000 or £12,000

by voting in participating Tesco stores.

The money will be used to create a sculpture trail at Saltwells Nature Reserve and to make improvements to footpaths and signs around the Buckpool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

Growing Our Community Together, which is a mutual collaboration between Brockmoor Primary and the Friends of Marsh Park and Lawyer's Field, will create a community garden and orchard with new fruit trees and a new learning zone for pupils.

At Jasmine Road Community Gar-

den in Dudley, improvements will be made as part of its Welcome to Healthy Living project. It's hoped that new gates and entrance can be installed as well as a pergola over the picnic area.

People can vote up until Sunday at the Cradley Heath Extra store and the Rowley Regis Express store for Saltwells and at Tesco stores on Bromley Lane, Moss Grove and Pensnett High Street for the community garden or Fens Pool project. People can vote in the Tesco Extra store at Burnt Tree for the Jasmine Road gardens.



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# Flying the flag for city with rich heritage

SARAH COWEN STRONG  
pays a visit to Lincoln

STONE lions, lawns greener than green and lines of national flags fluttering in the breeze. We're used to the stately uniform of our grander hotels, but never before have I seen one proudly flying the RAF ensign from the top of its roof.

This is Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa, just outside the city of Lincoln, which started off as a rural retreat conceived by a wealthy London heiress in the early 1900s, and is now a magnificent hotel in acres of grounds, attracting not only wedding parties, couples and the conference-bound but lovers of military history.

For along the way Petwood became home to none other than the legendary RAF 617 "Dambusters" Squadron of the Second World War – a momentous, fascinating and chilling fact. The house had been occupied from 1942, but when the top-secret dam attacks were being planned and the nearby Woodhall Airfield chosen as the operational base other units were moved out and the officers moved in.

Close your eyes and you are treading in the footsteps of Victoria Cross heroes Guy Gibson and Leonard Cheshire themselves. The Squadron Bar houses a fascinating collection of memorabilia and tributes – letters home and photographs of men just in their 20s, burdened beyond their years with the overwhelming responsibility of the country's destiny in their young hands.

Add the splendour of the hotel gardens, the luxury of the accommodation, with features such as a hand-carved staircase, four-poster beds, an extensive menu and romantic nooks and crannies, and Petwood is a must for a trip to Lincoln.

Team it with a visit to the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre in nearby East Kirkby, which has a Lancaster bomber on permanent display together with personal stories and artefacts and a roll of honour to all 848 airbase crew lost in the Second World War and you'll find it hard to find your way back to 2016.

Extend your trip and stay at Washington Hall Hotel, just outside Lincoln city and take another journey through time.

This intimate and homely Georgian delight has seen a chequered past with present-day rooms echoing not only to the steps of one of the richest families in the county, but also churchmen and – quite recently – night-clubbers.

Today the hotel is family-owned and family-cherished. It oozes style and elegance, with attention shown to detail as well as the guest. We stayed in a beautiful four-poster room, enjoying space, subtle decor and a freestanding bath in the en suite.

After a welcome sundowner on the ample terrace, breathing in the perfume of lavender beds and geraniums we enjoyed a glorious dinner in the high-ceilinged dining room, decorated graciously with garden posies on the tables.

The food was out-of-this-world, reflecting not only cuisine of the finest quality but an understanding of local produce and in-season delicacies.

The menu is constantly changing, but at the moment one of the succulent mains is Poached & Roasted Partridge, Wild Mushroom Farci Choucroute, Thyme Infused Fondant Potato and Bacon Cream while hedgerows have been raided for the Poached Blackberries served with Spiced Crème Caramel and Gingernut Biscuits.

Staff are warm and helpful and were only too happy to extol the virtues of Lincoln with us next morning.

The city is breezy and bustling, from the shops on the waterfront up to the medieval streets surrounding the cathedral and castle. Both are must-see destinations.

Take time to enjoy a guided tour of the 12th century edifice – once the tallest building in the world and now one of the largest in the country – and hear about its brush with an earthquake, its very own copy of the Magna Carta and just what the Victorians did to the choir screens.

Leave the castle until after you've toured the cathedral, and then you can admire a bird's eye view of the whole glorious structure from the Norman walls.



Bikes are king – with almost two for every person



Market day – produce on the streets of Vesterbro



Public recycling bins for everyone to use on the streets

# Fresh and inspiring with so much to see

**THE Danish capital is known for being clean, green, and repeatedly ranked as the 'world's most liveable city'.**

But there is a hip, multicultural side to Copenhagen that is getting it a reputation as one of the up-and-coming destinations for city-breakers.

The multicoloured waterfront town houses of Nyhavn, Tivoli Gardens (the second oldest theme park in the world) in the heart of the city) and the dockside statue of Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid at Langeline are all well known. Just a short stroll, however, and you are into a more modern world of cutting edge eateries, boutique shops and forward-thinking design in the hip Vesterbro district and cultural melting pot of Norrebro.

I arrived in Copenhagen in the middle of a heat wave, instantly confounding my expectations of the Scandinavian city, but there were plenty more surprises in store that had nothing to do with the weather. It takes a while for it sink in what is different about the urban experience in the Danish city – clean air, an un hurried pace and lack of congestion (of both cars and pedestrians) is normal throughout the city centre.

Bikes are king in Copenhagen – there are nearly twice as many as people, while car ownership is less than half the population. You can grab an electric bike off the street at ranks everywhere in the city centre, and the idea is inviting rather than intimidating – the bike lanes are often the same width as the main carriageway, and every bit as well-connected and as thought out in an unprecedented commitment to get people out of their cars and onto the pedals.

It is not just bikes that are making Copenhagen greener in its aim to become the first carbon-neutral city by 2025, with recycling bins on the streets and evidence of reused 'upcycled' materials everywhere, from fences full of plants growing in old drink bottles to the proliferation of city-centre flea markets.

Nowhere is this more in evidence than in multicultural Norrebro, its streets deco-

## HOLIDAYS

By Thomas Morton

rated with equal parts graffiti and greenery, with plenty of quiet little green spaces created where its densely packed 'back houses' were demolished in the 1990s. It also boasts Assistens Cemetery, the final resting place of Hans Christian Anderson, which doubles as a public park the size of 26 football pitches.

Sine Schmidt, who offers visitor tours around the district with Cph:cool, says: "You can always find a little place to sit and have a quiet moment or enjoy a picnic with friends and neighbours, and it also cleans up the air in downtown Copenhagen. The city has been changing a lot over the last 10 years. Before it was about going to see Tivoli Gardens, and seeing the Little Mermaid and people thought that was it, you've done it."

She says the streets of the district used to be known for gangs but were now well integrated and family friendly, with some, such as Jagersborgsgade, showing a radical transformation.

Jagersborgsgade is now one of the hippest streets in the city, boasting a vast array of quirky boutique shops selling everything from with liquid-nitrogen ice cream to hand-crafted ceramics, and even has Michelin-starred restaurant Relæ and its affordable sibling Manfreds across the way.

Dining out is a big deal in Copenhagen, and a similar story of a working class area becoming the place to go for food and drink is Vesterbro's Meatpacking District, a strange combination of still-functioning meat industry and trendy bars, brew-pubs, eateries and art galleries, all jostling together in a complex of white industrial-looking buildings around a huge courtyard.

Once Copenhagen's infamous red light district, Vesterbro is now one of the most fashionable places to eat, shop and live in the city. All in all, for the Brit abroad, Copenhagen is a fascinating mix of the familiar and the inspiringly fresh.



On yer bike – cafe culture on the streets of Vesterbro, Copenhagen

## Drinking and complaining among top holiday gripes



Many find fellow holidaymakers annoying

IT appears that Brits are bored of Brits abroad, with nearly nine out of ten (85 per cent) saying they get annoyed by fellow British holidaymakers while away on holiday, a new survey has found.

Travel search engine KAYAK.co.uk has polled the British public and revealed that 58 per cent of Brits find other Brits 'too drunk and rowdy' while abroad and a further half (49 per cent) say they don't believe local customs are respected. Being unable to control their children (47 per cent) and complaining about everything (37 per cent) also featured highly on the list on holiday gripes.

Other things which irritate Brits about their compatriots whilst abroad included 'shouting when people don't understand them' (30 per cent), not covering themselves up appropriately (17 per cent)

and hogging the sun beds (16 per cent). Seven per cent even bemoaned Brits not wearing enough sunscreen.

Suzanne Perry, travel expert at KAYAK, said: "Holidays are about doing what you want to do – for some people that means exploring and expanding their horizons, whereas for others, it is all about relaxation and having the comforts of home around them.

"A trip away offers a unique opportunity to mix with people you haven't met before, many of whom may be quite different from yourself. The best advice I can offer is to try and act how you would expect others to – that way, you hopefully won't go far wrong."

The research found that in many cases Brits seek out the comforts of home as soon as they land. Eight in ten (80 per

cent) say that while abroad, they like to eat the same sort of food they do at home. Fifty six per cent eat full English breakfasts whilst on holiday, with 54 per cent eating fast food – rising to 68 per cent for those between the ages of 25-44.

A lack of interest in local culture came across strongly in the study. For those that have stayed in a resort, nearly one in ten (nine per cent) admitted that they never even left it on their last holiday, with a further 12 per cent saying they did so just once. One in five (19 per cent) Brits say they never visit any cultural attractions when on holiday.

Nineteen per cent of men said finding the nearest pub is a priority.

## Uni's degree in demolition

THE University of Wolverhampton has become the first university in the UK to offer a degree course in demolition.

The course will be launched next year and will give more than 100 students a year the chance to study for a Bachelor of Science or Masters of Science Demolition and Restoration Management in the Built Environment degree.

The degree will be taught at the new School of Architecture and the Built Environment, based at the former brownfield Springfield Brewery site which is currently undergoing a £100 million redevelopment.

The new campus is hoped to be a centre of excellence for the built environment, construction and high value manufacturing to be delivered by the university and its partners. More than 20 people have signed up for the degree courses which will comprise of up to 15 modules, ranging from asbestos removal and façade retention to working with explosives and health and safety.

## Let it glow for the safari park meerkats



Meerkats keep warm at the West Midland Safari Park

AS the weather starts to turn chillier, spare a thought for those creatures who are more used to desert heat than the cold British winters.

Visitors to the West Midland Safari Park last weekend may have spotted the usually active meerkats huddled close together around a heat lamp in a bid to stay warm.

The adorable picture was shared on Twitter by Anya Wood, who does PR for the safari park.

Tweeting the photo she said: "A chilly day for all @WestMidSafari."

Meerkats are part of the mongoose family, and originate from the deserts of Botswana, Namibia, Angola, and South Africa.

A group of meerkats, as seen in this picture, is called a mob, gang or clan.

At the safari park, between Kidderminster and Bewdley, as temperatures dropped the cute critters were able to warm up under the glow – a simples method to keep nice and cosy.

## Force is praised for efficiency in report

WEST Midlands Police costs 54p per person each day to fund, according to a report which has rated the force 'outstanding' in efficiency.

The force is one of only two in the country which has achieved the highest rating in a report by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC).

The Police Efficiency 2016 report said the force had an understanding of current demand, worked to identify hidden crimes and was making progress evaluating future demand. As part of a WMP2020 transformation plan, 1,150 staff will be recruited in the next three years and officers kitted out with body cameras and smart phones.

In the HMIC report, the force was told it demonstrated 'a sophisticated level of planning which incorporated an analysis of future demand, including proactively looking for those areas of crime which tend to be under-reported, such as cyber crime'.

# Donations pouring in for family after crash tragedy

**A FUNDRAISING campaign in memory of motorcyclist who died in a road accident in Halesowen has now passed the £6,800 mark.**

Donations have flooded in after the online fund was launched following the death of 22-year-old Tom Winters, killed when his motorcycle hit a tree beside Manor Way on October 30.

Mr Winters, from Kidderminster, had recently celebrated the birth of his second child.

An online funding page was

launched by friend Lewis Tisdall and a total of £6,894 had been raised by the start of this week.

Mr Winters' family said they were 'devastated' by his death. He was father to two boys, Freddie, aged three and one-month-old Rupert.

### Pledged

Paramedics and passers-by battled to save Mr Winters after the accident but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hundreds have pledged cash after Mr Tisdall, from Kidderminster, set up the JustGiving page.

He said: "Tom was an adored father,

son, husband, brother and friend. Tom touched the lives of many with his kindness, compassion and beautiful humour. He will be missed greatly.

"We are raising money to go to Tom's partner Daisy and two young boys.

"The money will help them with unexpected expenses and will also be used to help the boys have a special Christmas during this traumatic time."

Two ambulances and the Midlands Air Ambulance were called to the scene at Manor Way after the crash happened near the Hagley Road junction at around 9.30am.



Father-of-two Tom Winters

## Hospice room gets makeover

COMPTON Hospice has been given a free makeover courtesy of a charity drive.

The Wolverhampton-based charity was crowned winner of an online competition by Local Heroes to celebrate the launch of its new online service in the region.

After 1,188 members of the public voted for the charity, a team of tradesmen transformed the hospice Quiet Room, an area where patients can talk to staff in confidence and where families visiting loved ones can spend the night.

Sue Brown, Clinical Nurse Manager at Compton Hospice, said: "Having small comforts and making our Quiet Room more inviting will mean so much to people at a very challenging time in their lives.

"We're thankful to Local Heroes for helping us to create such a warm and relaxing space."



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# Getting to the point with winter flu jab facts

**Flu season is here again – and so is the debate about whether or not we should sign up for a vaccination. Abi Jackson gets to the point**

THEY may share some similar symptoms – like a sore throat, runny or congested nose and headache – but the flu and colds are two different things, and neither is flu just a really ‘bad cold’.

Far more than just a ‘bad cold’, the flu can leave you feeling pretty wretched.

While a cold can bring on aching limbs, headaches, general exhaustion and make you feel pretty run down, flu is generally much more severe; you’ll probably struggle to get out of bed and there’s often a fever as well.

For some people, flu can be quite debilitating and possibly lead to serious complications (the World Health Organisation estimates that, globally, flu causes up to half a million deaths each year), which is why it’s a good idea to be clued up about the vaccines available.

The NHS offers flu jabs for free to certain groups, while others not eligible can opt to pay for a vaccine.

Unsure whether you need one? Read on...

## IS FLU SERIOUS?

If you’re generally in good health, you’ll usually recover naturally from flu after a week or so, and some sensible rest, pain-killers, plenty of fluids and keeping warm all help. However, flu can be very serious for those less able to fight off or cope with the virus, particularly the vulnerable, elderly and those with pre-existing health problems. Complications can arise, including a worsening of any ongoing health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.

## WHEN ARE FLU JABS RECOMMENDED?

“No one likes getting the flu, but while most of us are able to shake it off, there are certain groups whose long-term health is at greater risk from the virus. For these people, a regular flu vaccination is highly recommended,” says Dr Adam Simon, chief medical officer at PushDoctor.co.uk, the UK’s leading online video GP platform. “Steering clear of flu is particularly important for people with weaker immune systems, such as those over 65, diabetics, or people who’ve recently been treated for cancer. You should also have the jab if you have a history of health problems with your kidneys or spleen, or bronchitis or asthma that can make breathing difficult.”



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE FLU JAB?

The NHS provides free flu jabs for people deemed more at-risk from flu. As well as the over-65s, and those with long-term health conditions (particularly long-term heart or respiratory diseases), those recommended to receive a jab also include people who’ve had a stroke, people on medication that may affect their immune system, and also people who are a main carer for an older or disabled person. Pregnant women are also eligible for a free jab, in order to protect their own health and that of their baby. Nasal spray flu vaccines are also available for young children.

## I HAD A JAB LAST YEAR – DO I NEED ANOTHER?

Yes – because flu viruses are constantly mutating, so new vaccines are developed each season. “With many illnesses, one jab will keep you immunised for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, the flu virus is very clever and constantly changes to build up a resistance to the vaccines we produce,” explains Dr Simon. “That’s why you need to have a new flu jab every year to stay one step ahead.”

It’s also important to be aware that there are lots of flu viruses, and while the vaccines are the best form of protection currently available, they won’t provide 100 per cent protection, so you’d still need to seek medical advice if you experience symptoms. It’s best to try and get it done at the start of the season if possible.

## WILL I CATCH FLU FROM A FLU JAB?

No – technically, this isn’t possible, as there are no ‘active viruses’ in the vaccine. The NHS points out that you may experience some mild aches and a mild fever for a couple of days afterwards, but serious side-effects are deemed very rare. As with everything we come into contact with, allergic reactions can occur. If you experience any warning signs, seek urgent medical advice.

## CAN ANYONE GET A FLU JAB?

Yes – if you don’t qualify for a free jab, you can pay for one privately. Check local pharmacies to see what’s on offer.



The leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean



The British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April

# Lovely leeks will leave you feeling energised

By Sophie Madden

## THE British Leek season has begun!

As we head into colder months, the Leek Grower’s Association is urging people not to forget the benefits of the British leek as the fat-free, nutrient rich answer to staying healthy and helping combat colds this winter.

From keeping sore throats at bay to improving the quality of the singing voice, this ‘upmarket onion’ or ‘poor man’s asparagus’ is a must-have on shopping lists across the country as the British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April.

More refined, subtle and sweet than the average onion and packed with anti-oxidants, the leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean where it has been grown and cooked for more than 3,000 years. Rich in iron, vitamin B6, vitamin C and folate it is used in traditional medicines to treat a variety of ailments including the common cold, gout, ‘bad’ cholesterol, kidney stones as well as protecting against cancer.

Whether you like them roasted, baked, braised or boiled, leeks are easier to digest than onions, have laxative, antiseptic, diuretic and anti-arthritis properties. Just half a cup of leeks counts as one serving so check out the British leek website www.britishleeks.co.uk for mouth-watering, seasonal recipes, developed for The Leek Grower’s Association by leading chef, author of “Healthy, Speedy Suppers” and Daily Telegraph food columnist Katriona MacGregor.

Katriona says: “It’s a joy to cook and eat together and to nourish yourself and your family with healthful, seasonal recipes that have the power to make you feel healthy, well and energised.”

### Did you know?

- The French call the leek, ‘poireau’ which also means ‘simpleton’ in Europe.
- Agatha Christie named one of her most famous characters, the French detective Poirot, after the leek.
- The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, credited the clear voice of the partridge to a diet of leeks.

It is widely reported the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD) ate leeks in quantity, cooked in oil, to improve his singing voice. He became known as Poropagus or ‘leek eater’.

Even the bible mentions leeks. The Israelites lamented the loss of one of their favourite foods as they searched for the Promised Land.

St David, the Patron Saint of Wales, ordered his soldiers to wear leeks on their helmets in battle to differentiate themselves from the invading enemy, the Saxons.

The leek is widely recognised as the national symbol of Wales.

In Elizabethan times, Shakespeare refers to the custom of wearing a leek as ‘an ancient tradition’. Henry V tells Fluellen he is wearing a leek “for I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.”

In traditional medicine, the leek is highly regarded as a cure for the common cold, alleviating the pains of childbirth and a tasty, healthy ingredient in cawl, the traditional Welsh broth.

A means of foretelling the future and keeping away evil spirits, the leek was also



There are many ways to enjoy sweet, subtle leeks

placed under a pillow at night so young maidens could see the features of their future husbands.

## LEEK RECIPES

### Chargrilled leek, courgette and herb salad

Serves 4.  
400g baby leeks  
400g courgettes  
Zest of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a lemon  
12 basil leaves, shredded  
Small handful parsley, chopped  
20g pine nuts, toasted  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp honey  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp English mustard  
1 tbsp white wine vinegar  
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
A handful of rocket  
Salt and pepper

Remove any tough outer leaves from the baby leeks. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the leeks for 2 minutes. Drain and refresh under cold water. Drain once again and pat dry with kitchen paper to remove any excess water.

Slice the courgettes into eight lengthways and remove the seeds with a sharp knife. Place in a large bowl with the leeks, drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper.

Heat a char-grill pan until smoking and add the vegetables in batches, so you don’t overcrowd the pan. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until lightly charred and keep to one side.

To make the dressing, whisk together the honey, mustard, olive oil and vinegar with a little salt and pepper.

Pour the dressing over the char-grilled vegetables, adding the herbs, lemon zest

and rocket. Toss together well. Taste to check the seasoning and tip onto a serving dish, sprinkling with pine nuts just before you serve the salad.

### Sole and leeks en papillote

Serves 4.  
300g leeks, trimmed  
100g frozen petit pois, defrosted  
2 lemon sole, skinned and each filleted into four  
8 tbsp white wine  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lemon, zest and juice  
1 tbsp capers  
A handful of dill, chopped  
A handful of chives, chopped  
Olive oil  
Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 200C / Gas Mark 6

Slice the leeks thinly on the diagonal. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the sliced leeks for 1 minute. Refresh in cold water, drain and tip into a bowl with the petit pois. Add the herbs, a little salt and pepper and a drop of olive oil and mix together.

To make the parcels, cut out four large sheets of baking parchment. Divide the fish mixture between the four squares, placing a pile in the middle of each and spreading out slightly with the back of a spoon. Lay two fillets of sole on top of each pile of vegetables.

Drizzle with olive oil and then sprinkle over the capers and a little lemon zest. Season with salt, pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice. Fold the edges of the paper together, from the outer edges towards the middle, twisting to seal. Just before you seal the parcels, add 2 tbsp of white wine to each.

Place the parcels on a large baking tray

in the centre of the oven for 10-12 minutes, until the fish is just cooked through. Remove from the oven and serve immediately, still in the parcels if you like.

### Leek and Butterbean Soup

Serves 4.  
400g leeks, trimmed and sliced  
1 small onion, peeled and sliced  
2 cloves garlic, sliced  
2 x 400g tin butterbeans, drained  
4 sprigs of thyme, leaves only  
1 bay leaf  
70ml extra virgin olive oil  
1 litre chicken/vegetable stock  
Heat a little butter or oil in a large saucepan and add the sliced onions and leeks. Cook gently for 10 minutes until softened, covered with a lid. Don’t allow the leeks to stick to the bottom of the pan and burn as they will become bitter. After 10 minutes, add the garlic, thyme, bay leaf and a little salt and pepper and continue to cook in the same way for a further 10 minutes.

Drain the butterbeans, rinse, and tip into the pan with the leeks. Cook for 2 more minutes, still covered with a lid and then pour over the stock. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Using a jug blender if possible, but alternatively a hand held stick blender, blend until very smooth and velvety in consistency, adding the extra virgin olive oil as you blend.

Tip back into a clean pan and taste to check the seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as needed and perhaps a squeeze of lemon juice. Return to the heat and when piping hot, serve. Top with a drizzle of olive oil, cream or perhaps a crumpling of goat’s cheese or croutons.

# In a spin over latest cooking trend – it's the spiralizer

**SPIRALIZING** is the latest cooking trend, turning veg into spaghetti style ribbons and spirals that are great to add to stir fry dishes.

Spiralized veg can also be used as a replacement for pasta for those who are cutting down on carbs. Reluctant children may be persuaded to eat their greens (and carrots) when they are spiralized. New to Lakeland is the Swiss designed Betty Bossi Twister Maxi (£34.99) which can quickly and easily turn large quantities of vegetables and fruit into delicious health spirals.

Courgettes are particularly good but it can also handle carrots, potatoes, apples, pears and more. Interchangeable cutting cones produce ribbons or spirals and it is self-contained to collect the spiralized veg – so no mess left on the worktop.

Want to take the flipping effort out of omelettes or frittata, then check out the Spanish Omelette Maker (£14.99) from Lékué, the Barcelona-based makers of non-stick silicone cookware. Your flexible friend comes complete with a series of recipes that means that you can make several microwaved delicious round meals from scratch in a matter of minutes. Follow instructions and the double sided design will ensure both sides are cooked, and the results can be turned out easily.

Also from those clever people at Lékué comes the Green & White Rice Cooker One Litre (£17.99). This can provide up to four servings of fluffy rice in around 12 minutes from your microwave. It will also cook other grain, such as couscous or quinoa. The specially designed lid stops water bubbling over in the microwave and the double-walled bowl keeps the rice warmer longer as it sits on your dining table. There is no

need to boil water first and the cooker is freezer safe and dishwasher compatible.

Winter is coming and it is time for warming soups and you can save lots of money by making your own, particularly as it is also a healthy way to use up vegetables. It's a breeze with the Tefal Easy Soup Maker (now £39.97 from Lakeland, was £79.99). This can-do cannister not only makes soup but can also make compotes, smoothies and shakes, via simple push-button controls with automatic options for delicious soup in under 30 minutes.

Visit [www.lakeland.co.uk](http://www.lakeland.co.uk) for latest offers and to view or order Lakeland catalogues.



Lékué Green & White Rice Cooker



Betty Bossi Twister Maxi



Lékué Spanish Omelette Maker



Tefal Easy Soup Maker

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### Our Aims

To empower our children to have joy, ownership and responsibility for their own learning and success.

To give the school community ambition to be creative for developing essential life skills, talents and dreams.

To allow the freedom to inspire, challenge and innovate.

To understand, care for and keep safe all those who come into contact with us and to reach out to those who don't.

To embrace, value, and respect all cultures and religions in our world.

# Quirky gift ideas which help protect our wildlife

**WILDLIFE** charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) has released its Christmas gift catalogue, which showcases a variety of quirky and creative gift ideas that will help the most endangered wildlife across the UK and internationally.

This year, new additions include fox-shaped cookie cutters and wildlife-themed ice cube trays – perfect for sweet treats and celebratory drinks throughout the festive season.

There are gifts to suit all budgets and interests, from household items to supporting conservation projects.

£10 could provide enough food for a newly released dormouse couple until they can find for themselves, £18 could help support the coppicing of hazel trees to ensure there's enough hazelnuts for red squirrels and dormice so they can fatten up for winter.

£30 could help PTES to train forest managers in Indonesia to understand how to help save the Bornean orang-utan.

The full range of wildlife gifts, ideal for any wildlife enthusiast, can be viewed and purchased online at [www.ptes.org/shop](http://www.ptes.org/shop)

All the profits go directly to help wildlife both across the UK and internationally.

**Gifts of Nature (prices range from £10 - £100)**

PTES has some unique gift ideas in their Gifts of Nature range. 100 per cent of the money raised will help save endangered species worldwide. Gift options include:

- Honeymoon hamper: providing newly released dormice with food until they can find for themselves in the wild

- Gardener's friend: encouraging the public to create hedgehog holes and connect their gardens to form Hedgehog Highways

- Fighting for survival: educating more people in the conservation of stag beetles

- Winter wonderland: supporting coppicing practices in ancient woodland to help species such as red squirrels and hazel dormice through winter and spring

- Location, location, re-location: relocating the rare pine marten from Scotland to a new lush woodland home in Wales

- Tails of the riverbank: helping save water voles in the UK and boost their numbers by improving their riverbank homes



- Passage to India: working with villagers in India to plan agricultural work around elephant migratory routes & promoting alternative forms of livelihood

- Save orang-utan forest: training forest managers in Indonesia to help protect the Bornean orang-utan from extinction

- Snow leopard patrol: creating new patrol zones across Mongolia so more snow leopards can roam free

- Funky gibbon: training forest rangers to monitor and report illegal poaching of western hoolock gibbons and educating communities to respect this species

## Wildlife Guides & Publications

For a comprehensive understanding of Britain's mammals in both the countryside and urban environments, PTES has two concise guides so you can find out more about the wildlife living on your doorstep. Urban Mammals: A Concise Guide and Britain's Mammals: A Concise Guide and are priced at £9.99 each or both for £15.

## Animal Ink Cards

Choose from: hare, hedgehog, otter, red squirrel, badger or dormouse cards which are blank inside so you can personalise your message. Size 14 x 14cm on recycled card with a brown recycled paper envelope. Individually packaged and £2.50 each or £12.50 for a set of six.

## Natural Wildlife Tea Towels

Choose from Animal Ink – beautifully drawn native wildlife, or Collective Nouns including a prickle of hedgehogs! These tea towels are printed by hand in England and made from 100% unbleached cotton and £9 each or £16 for both.

## Collective Noun Coasters

Choose from: a trip of hares, a romp of otters and a scurry of squirrels among others. Made in Britain, these quirky coasters are wipeable with a heat resistant matt vinyl print made from eucalyptus hardboard, and are priced at £3 each or 6 for £15.



There's a hypericum for most situations, deciduous or evergreen

# Ideal choice to brighten up your rock gardens

## BEST OF THE BUNCH – Hypericum

THIS stalwart shrub produces bright yellow flowers throughout summer, followed by berries, depending on the variety.

There's a hypericum for most situations. The larger types look great in a border, the smaller ones will brighten up a rock garden, and you can get both evergreen and deciduous species which provide lovely autumn colour. Certain types will also bear berries. *H. androsaemum* (*Tutsan*), for instance, a bushy, deciduous shrub which grows up to 75cm tall, produces red berries which ripen to black in autumn. Larger shrubs prefer moist but well-drained soil in sun or partial shade, while the smaller rock garden types prefer full sun and good drainage. Trim them in spring to keep them neat or cut the larger deciduous types back hard in early spring to contain their growth.

## GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Baby vegetables

SO many of these are sold in supermarkets – from baby leeks and miniature courgettes to dwarf carrots and sweetcorn – but you can't beat growing your own.

Some of the shop-bought types have been bred

to be genetically undersized varieties, but you can grow standard types closer together and harvest them earlier. Quick-maturing varieties include early carrots such as Amsterdam Forcing and turnips like Snowball. Leeks like Jolant can be grown in close rows and pulled after 12 weeks, or you could leave them in the ground to become larger, more standard sizes. As a general rule, grow baby vegetables closer together than you would ordinary varieties, although courgettes and sweetcorn will need to be given more space to grow. Thin carrots, beetroot and turnips, leaving them 3cm apart. Space cabbage and lettuce 15cm apart. Baby veg need humus-rich soil, thorough watering and regular feeding but can do well in pots and tiny beds.

## WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Check your greenhouse thermometer regularly and if the minimum temperature has dropped below 3.4C (38-40F) overnight, you may need to turn it up a little.

2. Check stored fruits every week and use them as fast as you can. Remove any showing signs of mould.

3. Plant tulips in gritty, well-drained compost.

# A final colourful hurrah before winter takes hold

**ROSS UNDERWOOD**



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

**WHENEVER I take a drive around I can open the windows and smell woodsmoke almost everywhere.**

Now that days are shorter and cooler it is a privilege to come home and light the stove, yet I come indoors only reluctantly.

Outside in gardens, the countryside and the streets of our towns wherever you look there are bright bonfires happening as plants give their final hurrah before winter.

We are so lucky to live in a temperate climate where we can enjoy autumn colour. Plants that perform at this time of year are treasures as the show only intensifies with lower temperatures and light.

Many great trees and shrubs that have been in the background all summer are taking centre stage now.

Amongst the best are the acers. This family which includes the common Sycamore as well as the palmate or Japanese acers. Thanks to the efforts of nurserymen they are no longer just available to the wealthy but come in a huge number of cultivars.

All share common features which are a liking for good loamy soil, a tolerance of shade and a dislike of drought and drying winds. Growth is moderate but the handsome hand shaped (hence the epithet palmate) foliage is perfect for growing herbsaceous plants beneath.

One of my favourites is *A. aconitifolium* which as the name implies has foliage reminiscent of a monkshood. It grows as wide as it does tall and can be quite imposing when it gets mature. The leaves burn scarlet red in the autumn and are held over a long period until heavy frost crinkles them up. They look wonderful unplanned with cyclamen or a small anemone such as 'September Charm' which is still going. *Acer osakazuki* is perhaps the most brilliant of all the Japanese maples and quite a strong grower by comparison with many.

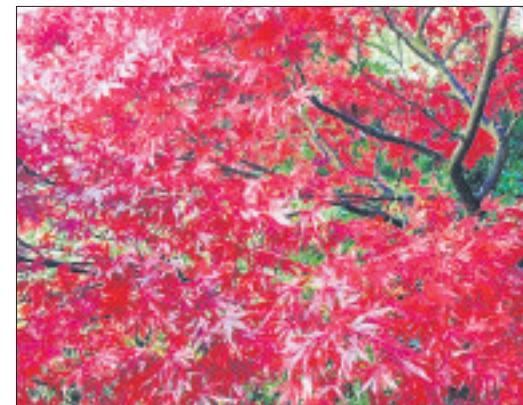
We may not have spared a thought for our cherries since the spring and early summer but look at them now.

Next to my house I am lucky to have a group of bird cherries which are orange, red and gold now. It really looks as though flames are creeping up the tree! Yet for the garden, especially when space is at a premium I like *Prunus incisa*. These more shrubby cherries can have an angular habit of growth. They still flower in early spring but also turn the most fabulous shades of burnt orange and maroon red now. Added to which they are incredibly amenable and will grow in sun or light shade and even in heavy soil which we have here. I have planted the cultivar 'Kojo-no-mai' which is quite slow growing with zig zag shoots and pale pink flowers.

One shrub or tree which is as much of a delight in the hedgerows as it is in the garden are the spindles, or *Euonymus*. *E. alatus* is often encountered in garden cen-



*Lindera obtusiloba* has a wonderful erect habit and three lobed leaves which look like molten gold in autumn



*Acer osakazuki*, perhaps the most brilliant of all Japanese maples



Wonderfully pinkish – *E. bungeanus* var. *mongolicus*

tres where it's neat leaves and winged corky bark give it an extra element of interest in winter. For those willing to seek them out there are some less often encountered species and cultivars including the wonderful *E. bungeanus* var. *mongolicus* which has wonderfully pinkish autumn colour with pinkish fruits produced after a good summer. *E. clivicola* is a graceful shrub growing to ten feet with slender leaves whilst *E. hamiltonianus* has produced a number of excellent offspring including 'Indian Summer' and 'Coral Charm' which are must haves in my book!

*Lindera* is a genus of shrubs from the northern hemisphere which might not have been heard of outside of specialist collections some few years ago but have made a much greater impression recently. *L. benzoin* is known as the spice bush in the USA as scented leaves which turn clear yellow in autumn. My favourite though is *L. obtusiloba* which has a wonderful erect habit and three lobed leaves which look like molten gold in autumn.

I feel as though I could go on forever and probably could but I can't leave you without mentioning a conifer... yes a conifer that I

find irresistible. You might have to give up a substantial part of your garden to house it so it's probably better to go and see it in somebody else's but hey ho! There are only five genera of deciduous conifer of which *Pseudolarix amabilis* is the only member of its own genera and superficially resembles a larch. It likes acid soil in which it will grow slowly but happily producing long light green needles which look like butter in the autumn.

They make a stately tree over time and ours is just a baby but here's to many golden Octobers to come!

# CHRISTMAS IN AND AROUND DUDLEY

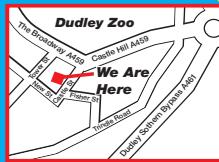


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# Christmas in Dudley

## Safety tips for those longer, darker nights

Darker nights are here so it's a good time to make sure your home is safe and secure.

Now the clocks have gone back, safe and sound, Dudley's community safety partnership is encouraging residents to follow some easy home safety tips.

Simple tips include using a timer switch for lights so your home is not left in darkness, using door and window locks and keeping sheds and garages locked.

People should also register their personal items on the immobilise database by visiting [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

The database is free and used by police and can help recover your property and capture thieves.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for community safety, said: "It's really important to remember to secure your home against thieves."

"Darker nights can make our homes more vulnerable but there are lots of ways you can safeguard your property by following just a few simple steps."

For more tips and information visit [www.dudleysafeandsound.org](http://dudleysafeandsound.org)

Dudley borough's town centre Christmas events are sure to get people in the mood for the festive season.

The first event is on Saturday, November 19, in Halesowen.

There will be fun in the High Street and Somers Square from noon and local tennis ace Jordanne Whiley will switch on the lights at 5pm.

Black Country Radio will be broadcasting live with entertainment will be on stage throughout the day and Father Christmas will be dropping by on his sleigh.

Throughout the afternoon a Christmas market will be running, together with refreshments and a funfair.

Stourbridge is set to sparkle on Saturday, December 3, when the town will be holding its annual Christmas festival to get families into the seasonal spirit.

Festive fun is planned in the town centre from 10am until 5pm including funfair rides on Market Street and live entertainment on stages in Crown Square and Fountain Square.

Chicago's will be keeping the town's shoppers entertained with a fantastic line up of local bands on their outdoor stage.

Families, shoppers and traders are being urged to get involved and get into the seasonal spirit during the day when Snow Princesses and their Frozen friends visit the town.

The town is hosting its biggest ever Christmas craft market on High Street and Coventry Street with traders selling everything from Christmas decorations to festive sweets, savoury treats to stocking fillers.

Father Christmas has also found time in his busy diary to stop by and enjoy the festivities and will be in his grotto in the Ryemarket



All grown up – Britain's Got Talent Finalist, Connie Talbot, will be in Dudley town centre from 11am to 4pm, updating his present list ready for Christmas Eve.

by Bromley Primary School and Brierley Hill Musical Theatre. Children's rides will also be at the centre.

The town's Christmas lights will be officially switched on by the Mayor of Dudley in Crown Square at 5pm rounding off the day of festive fun.

Also on Saturday, December 3, there will be Brierley Hill's Christmas lights switch-on event with plenty to do from 11am to 5pm, followed by a carol concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from 6pm.

Moor Street Centre will be have a Teenage Market, where young people are hosting stalls selling a wide range of goods, a programme of entertainers will be on stage throughout the day, including performances

From 11am to 2pm St Michael's Church is hosting their Christmas Tree Festival and everyone is welcome to take a look around.

Throughout the town there will be a trail in local businesses of handmade woollen sheep from the nativity story which children can follow and hopefully see them all.

At the other end of town, a craft fair will be at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from 1 to 4pm and Father Christmas will make a special visit to his grotto.

From 4.30pm onwards people will be gathering around the Christmas Tree in front

of the Civic Hall to sing traditional Christmas carols, led by Brierley Hill Musical theatre on the run up to the lights switch-on at 5pm.

The following day, on Sunday, December 4, Brierley Hill Methodist Church will be having a Tree of Lights service starting at 6pm where everyone is welcome.

Themed as a traditional Victorian Christmas, Dudley town centre will host its event on Saturday, December 10.

Entertainment will be taking place throughout the town centre during the day and on Stone Street Square will be the customary tree will be lit up at 4.45pm by special guest, Britain's Got Talent finalist, Connie Talbot. Connie will be arriving together with Father Christmas, courtesy of Tipton Community Group at 4.30pm.

From 11am there will be a craft fair on Stone Street Square, which will be packed with 24 stalls to delight Christmas shoppers with a range of goods on sale. There will also be local choirs singing traditional carols, entertainment on stage including songs from Connie Talbot, birds of prey, Dudley Zoo, face-painters, a vintage musical organ, glass blowing and traditional food sellers.

In the run-up to the event, shops throughout the town will be selling small wooden ornaments for people to write their own special Christmas memory messages for loved ones, which will be hung from the tree.

In Churchill Precinct the Salvation Army will be holding a service at 11am and singing carols during the day. The entertainment will heat up with jazz favourites, the Red Hot Santa Band, who will do three sets during the day.

In the town centre itself, the outdoor market will be running as usual together with children's funfair rides.

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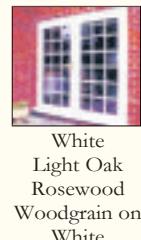


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# Hall decked with entertainment

Bustling live music, diverse cinema screenings and modern ballet are among a packed festive programme of events at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Hot on the heels of last year's sold-out 30th anniversary reunion gigs, the original members of the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band will be returning home on Friday, December 16 for a one-off Christmas special.

Local TV stars and former band members Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry made surprise appearances on stage last year to introduce the much-loved 80s outfit, who found fame touring the UK with major artists such as Robert Plant and Chuck Berry.

Devoted fans are set for a real festive treat with the promise of more special guests this time round.

Also making a return to the town centre venue is Disney's hugely popular comedy-adventure film 'Frozen' on Tuesday, December 20, with an added sprinkling of 'Sing-a-Long' fairy dust.

Parents are encouraged to dress up their little ones and join in the fun, with lyrics appearing on screen throughout the film to help the audience sing along and become the stars of the show.

Stourbridge Town Hall's popular Monday Movie Matinees also continue throughout December with two big screen features offering film fans a break from their Christmas shopping.

Tom Hanks delivers one of his most engaging performances to date in 'A Hologram for the King' on Monday, December 5, followed by

period comedy 'Love & Friendship' on Monday, December 19.

The Town Hall's recently-installed cinema screen will also be in action for the latest in a series of unique National Theatre Live productions on Thursday, December 15.

Following their hit Broadway run, Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart return to the West End stage in Harold Pinter's 'No Man's Land', broadcast live to Stourbridge from Wyndham's Theatre in London – followed by an exclusive question and answer session with the cast and director Sean Mathias.

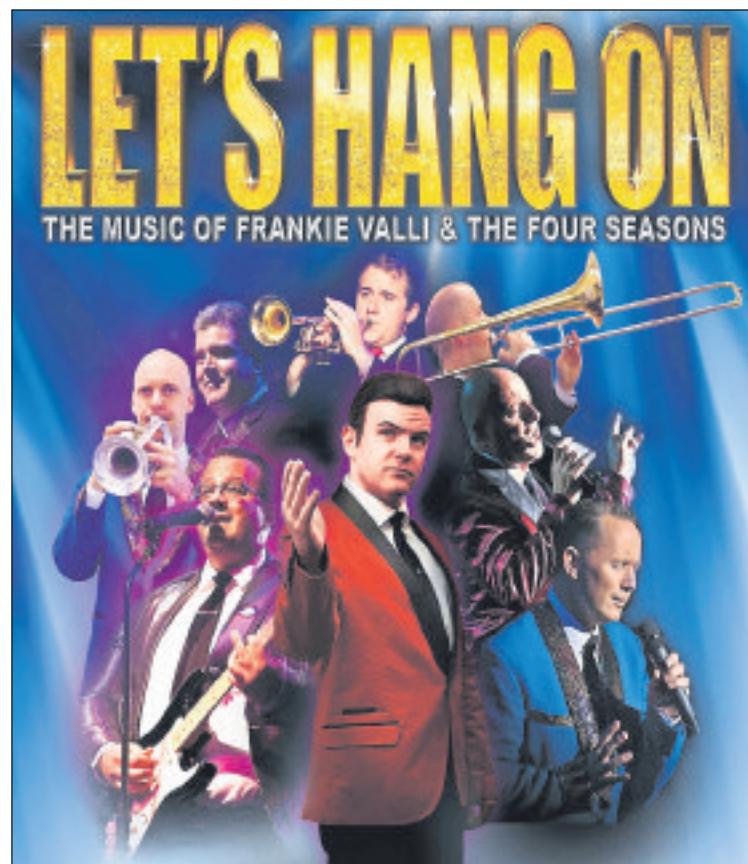
Meanwhile, the UK's leading homage to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons bring their remarkable live production 'Let's Hang On' to Stourbridge Town Hall on Sunday, December 4.

Ballet Cymru's dynamic, eagerly anticipated production of 'Romeo and Juliet' arrives on Saturday, December 10, promising lyrical choreography, exquisite costumes and extraordinary video projections.

Ticket holders are invited to take part in a special free ballet workshop with cast members prior to the performance. The minimum age for the workshop is seven-years-old, with no upper limit.

Dudley Performing Arts will also be taking to the stage at the Borough Halls throughout December with their annual series of winter concerts.

Tickets for all of these shows, plus a full list of upcoming events at Dudley and Stourbridge Town Halls, are available at [www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment) or by calling 01384 812812.



The UK's leading homage to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons bring their remarkable live production 'Let's Hang On' to Stourbridge Town Hall on Sunday, December 4

Christmas in Dudley

## Crafts and fun at borough libraries

You'll be able to leave with more than a book when you visit borough libraries this December.

Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen libraries are all hosting Christmas craft markets in the run-up to Christmas.

It's a chance to get festive, feel inspired and pick up a hand-crafted gift for a loved one.

The festive fun kicks off with fayres at Halesowen and Stourbridge Libraries on Saturday, December 3, with events running 11am – 2pm at both venues. Dudley Library takes its turn on Saturday, December 10 from 11am – 2pm.

There will be handmade and vintage gifts just perfect for Christmas, including jewellery, Christmas cards, paintings, cakes and crocheted items.

Stands cost £5 per table. Contact the relevant library to book Dudley (01384 815560), Halesowen (01384 812982) and Stourbridge (01384 812945).

Stourbridge Library will also be hosting a musical puppet performance of "The Ugly Duckling" by Sea Legs Theatre on Tuesday, December 20.

Perfect for families with young children, the performance will start at 2.30 at Stourbridge Library and free tickets will be available from Stourbridge Library nearer the date.

The performance is part of the Early Hurly Burly project which has received Arts Council Funding.

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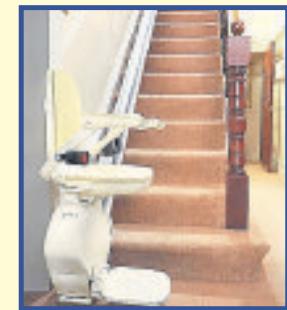
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## Christmas in Dudley

### Good rating for home care team

A council service designed to prevent people being admitted to hospital and needing long term care has been rated good by a national independent regulator.

Dudley Council's home care team, which provides intensive short term social care support to local people to help them stay in their own home, was recently inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The commission, an organisation which monitors, inspects and regulates health and social care services, spent one day with the team to assess the services it delivers.

It found that the service, which has supported more than 2,200 people in the last 12 months, was safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. The report highlighted that people spoke positively about the care staff and that the appropriate support was in place to ensure people could maintain their independence.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "I am extremely proud of this achievement. Our home care team intervenes at pinch points and supports people at a time when they need it most to help avoid unwanted stays in hospital and the need for long term support. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to putting the needs of local people first and helping them maintain their independence. Delivering care at home is much more economic than looking after people in hospital and we will continue to work with our NHS colleagues to work out how we can accelerate this further in the future."

We all create more waste than normal over the holiday period – glass, cans, cards, paper, plastic and Christmas trees all get thrown away.

Why not make that special effort and minimise the amount of waste produced this year your pre New Year's resolution?

Reduce: Do not over wrap gifts or try using a (reusable) Christmas stocking. Around

a third of the food we buy is thrown away – try avoiding unnecessary purchases by using a list and checking cupboards and fridge freezers. For more tips go to [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Reuse: Don't forget to take your shopping bags with you when buying presents and food.

Choose a tree grown in a pot so you can replant it and

use it next year. Freeze food leftovers and use them for your next meal.

Recycle: Paper, cardboard packaging and greetings cards can be recycled in your blue bag (no glitter or foil based paper, please take polystyrene out of boxes and fold them flat). Plastic fizzy drinks bottles, plastic spray bottles and all types of tins and cans, including aerosols go in the green bag.

All of your glass jars and bottles from cranberry sauce, mincemeat and chutney jars to wine, beer and even perfume bottles can be recycled in the black box.

For more recycling hints and tips, together with details about changes to the collection schedule go to [www.recyclefordudley.org.uk](http://www.recyclefordudley.org.uk), or refer to the leaflet distributed to all households in the borough.



Make recycling an early resolution

# Recycling hints and tips for the festive season

## Glass engravers at The Cone



"Let there be sea dragons"

**The Guild of Glass Engravers** is returning to The Cone when an exhibition of pieces opens later this month.

The guild which has members from all over the country has exhibited at the Wordsley visitor attraction many times over the years. Most notably during three International Glass Festivals.

This exhibition features work by members of the Stourbridge & Midlands Branch and the South West Branch of the Guild. The pieces range from elaborate, large scale items to small Christmas decorations and most of the pieces are for sale.

Pieces include the cameo inspired Patricia Hilton-Robinson "Let there be sea dragons" in white and turquoise and her "Me and my shadow", an affectionate softly-edged silhouette portrait

of a dog and his master seen in the misty woods; Sue Burne's exquisitely engraved cuboids with their delicately etched snowflake shapes and further piece "What is a weed" which features a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson coiled around an engraved dandelion head, complete with individual seeds scattered around the glass disc; and Margaret Foster's engraved feathers float delicately in contrast to the weighty glass disc which supports their design and John Hockton's jolly snowmen Christmas decorations are childlike in their simplicity and crooked, beaming smiles.

The exhibition also includes a retrospective display of stipple engraving by the late Doug Burgess, including his beautiful engraving of the Glasshouse

Cone. The engravers exhibiting are Chris Ainslie, Barbara Beadman, Sue Burne, Barrie Cooper, Phil Dorman, Margaret Foster, Patricia Hilton-Robinson, John Hockton, Gill Lees and Nancy Sutcliffe.

A wide range of techniques have been used including stipple engraving, where the image is made up from tiny dots, the closer the dots are the lighter the design, allowing the creation of tonal effects; drill engraving, the most commonly used method for engraving which uses a variety of pen type electric drills with diamond and stone burrs; and sandblasting where areas of the glass are protected while an abrasive medium scour the surface to create a delicate impression.

Some pieces also combine gilding and enamelling with

engraving or use the grail technique where the engraved vessel is dipped into hot glass and re-blown. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "It's great to have the Guild of Glass Engravers back at the cone and in time for Christmas too."

"The pieces are so varied in style, it's hard to believe that they are all engraved, the methods used are so different that the pieces are all utterly unique."

The exhibition runs until Friday, January 13. The Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is open 10am – 3pm Monday to Friday and 11am – 4pm at the weekends. Admission is free.

Visit [www.facebook.com/GuildofGlassEngravers/](http://www.facebook.com/GuildofGlassEngravers/)

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# Dudley Registrars celebrate an extremely busy and successful year

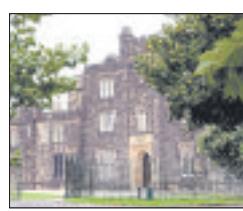
It's been an exciting year for Dudley Registrars with the launch of a brand new wedding venue and a series of competitions including a complete wedding package and group wedding vow renewal.

The team runs two wedding venues, Priory Hall in Dudley which is complemented by the romantic 12th Century Priory Ruins in the halls extensive grounds, just perfect for dramatic and romantic wedding photos. Priory Hall hosts not one, but two venues, the Priory Suite and the more intimate Castle Suite. It's newly renovated second venue is the Grade II Thomas Robinson Building, formerly the

Lye and Wollescote Chapels which reopened in April 2016 after a £1.2m refurbishment.

While the venues may be traditional, the approach is far from that. The team at Dudley Registrars has come up with a range of promotional ideas which has kept the venue busy.

They made national headlines when they ran a Buy One Get One Free in 2015 offering two ceremonies for the price of one, be they wedding, civil partnership, vow renewal, Christening or naming ceremonies and they developed this into a series



Priory Hall in Dudley

of competitions to win a free ceremony. The highlight of the 2016 calendar was the win-a-wedding competition at the newly refurbished Thomas Robinson

Building, built in the Victorian-Gothic style. More than 40 couples wrote in to Dudley registrars with their heart-warming stories in a bid to win the wedding package worth more than £6,000 – and the registrars together with Dudley's mayor whittled the entries down to four couples. More than 24,000 online votes were cast in a public vote, with Natasha Stanley, 25, and Richard Massey, 27, of Upper Gornal, winning the luxury package.

The pair became the first couple to tie the knot in the beautifully restored Stourbridge chapel on April 2. The next open day in the

calendar is on March 18 at Priory Hall. Superintendent Registrar, Penny Fulford said: "We love what we do at Dudley Registrars and it's a privilege to be part of the important life events for people from across the borough."

To find out more or to make an appointment to give notice of marriage or civil partnership telephone 01384 815373 select option 4 to speak to staff at the register office.

Visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/living/marriages/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/living/marriages/) or visit [www.facebook.com/DudleyRegisterOffice](http://www.facebook.com/DudleyRegisterOffice)

**Christmas in Dudley**

## Markets boost for shoppers

Sunday shopping will get a welcome boost in the lead-up to Christmas this year thanks to the new Sunday markets in Dudley town centre.

The Black Country Market is located on Flood Street car park and has been in operation since its official opening in October.

Stalls are open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm and include a wide variety of produce including toys, plants, clothing, food, arts and crafts, vintage ware and antiques, hardware and jewellery.

And in the run up to Christmas, a wide range of seasonal goods and accessories are also on offer.

A funfair provides weekly entertainment with children's rides on offer. There is also a weekly car boot sale.

Balbir Singh, manager of Black Country Market, said: "With such a fantastic range of goods at great prices on offer in our Sunday market, this is the perfect place to do Christmas shopping."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The Teenage Markets are an excellent opportunity for young people to develop their confidence, along with their business and performance skills. I am delighted that we are adding a further four events to our Teenage Market schedule and I hope that local people will give as much support as they can to our enterprising youngsters."

To book a stall or a performing slot, go to [www.theteenagemarket.co.uk](http://www.theteenagemarket.co.uk)

# Yuletide teenage markets for the town

Anyone looking for unique Christmas gifts, along with food, free seasonal entertainment and cheer, can attend up to four separate Teenage Markets in the run-up to the festive season.

Traders, all aged between 13 and 23, will be selling food, crafts, gifts and more, while getting the chance to experience being an entrepreneur.

In addition, young people will provide the free entertainment on the day. This is scheduled to range from singer songwriters, to a rap artist. The events are free to attend.

The markets will take place from 10am to 4pm at:

The Netherton Arts Centre, on Saturday, November 12

The Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, on Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27

The Moor Centre, Brierley Hill, the only outside Teenage Market, on Saturday, December 3.

The Brierley Hill event will play a key role within the town's Christmas lights switch-on event. It will also take place on Small Business Saturday, when residents are urged to support small businesses.

The Teenage Markets follow the success of Dudley's first Teenage Market, which occurred in Dudley in October 2015 and at the Red House Glass Cone, which ran earlier



Young traders are selling Christmas goods

in July this year. One person who has already benefitted from attending is 13-year old Lucy Walters, from Hagley, who took a stall at the Red House Glass Cone in July. The Haybridge High School pupil said: "I have always dreamed of becoming an entrepreneur and seeing how successful I could be, and I realised that taking part in The Teenage Market would be my best chance for taking the first step.

"I loved the whole experience. I sold shabby chic trinkets, sweets and home-made cakes. Not only did I sell lots of my stock, but I also picked up so many tips on things like how to talk to customers."

"Taking part is a fantastic opportunity to develop business, marketing and selling skills."

"I'm really looking forward to the next Teenage Markets and I'd advise anyone else who is wondering whether they should do it to give it a try. I just said to myself, what's the worst that could happen? It worked for me."

As well as traders, young performers are encouraged to make the most of this opportunity. Performing and busking slots are available for anyone who would like to hone their skills in front of an audience. Singers, dancers, street entertainers, magicians, or anyone else with a talent to entertain, is encouraged to apply.

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## Christmas in Dudley

### People get say on borough plans

People are being given the opportunity to have a greater say on plans and proposed developments across the Dudley borough with the launch of a new consultation on planning.

Dudley Council is looking to give people the opportunity to have a greater say on planning projects – from homes and businesses to public open spaces – across the borough and to help shape their communities.

It will mean more opportunities to comment on planning applications, greater influence on planned developments and the ability to help shape development plans for the future.

People will be able to comment on the draft Statement of Community Involvement until the end of November. The document sets out the council's commitment, as a community council, to give people a greater say.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is about giving people a greater say about where they live and work."

"Through the recommendations of the Statement of Community Involvement we are hoping to give people the opportunity to have more say than ever before on how their neighbourhoods are developed, and people should take this opportunity to get involved."

The consultation is now open and runs until Friday, November 28. It is available at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

# Duo of events for all you writers out there

Keen readers and aspiring writers can pop along to two events at Dudley Library this month.

There's a writer's networking event on Saturday, November 26 and a talk by writer Clare Morall who will be talking about her book 'When the Floods Came' on Wednesday, November 30.

The library will be hosting an interactive Q&A session with a panel of published authors and poets on Saturday, November 26. They will be talking the writing process and answering questions on working with publishers and agents during the session which runs from 10.30am to 1pm.

Guest speakers include authors Elizabeth Hanbury, Nell Dixon and Gemma Todd and poet Brenda Read-Brown.

Black Country author Nell Dixon was winner of the 2007 Romantic Novelists' Association award for her novel 'Marrying Max' and the 2010 Love Story of the Year award for her novel 'Animal Instincts'.

Gemma Todd, also from the Black Country, works as a mobile librarian in the West Midlands. Her debut novel 'Defender' is being published by Headline in January 2017 and is already gaining considerable press coverage.

Elizabeth Hanbury combines humour, emotion, great characters, engaging plots and historical detail. Liz writes regency-set novels and short stories that appeal to a wide range of readers.

Poet Brenda Read-Brown is Gloucestershire Poet Laureate and trustee of the Ledbury Poetry Festival. She is a

performance poet, multiple slam winner and writers of award winning one-act plays. She is also co-ordinator of Poetry on Loan, an organisation which promotes contemporary poetry through libraries in the West Midlands.

To book your free ticket please call 01384 815560, email [libraries@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@dudley.gov.uk) or enquire at Dudley Library.

Clare's event on Wednesday, November 30 will discuss her novel, set in a future, dystopian Birmingham. In a world prone to violent flooding, Britain, ravaged 20 years earlier by a deadly virus, has been largely cut off from the rest of the world. The lives of a family existing on the margins of a dramatically changed society are upset by the arrival of a mysterious stranger.

Clare's first novel, Astonishing Splashes

of Colour, was published in 2003 and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize that year. She has since published a further six novels, Natural Flights of the Human Mind, The Language of Others, The Man Who Disappeared, which was a TV Book Club Summer Read in 2010, The Roundabout Man and After the Bombing.

She will be talking about her latest book, When the Floods Came, and answering questions from the audience.

Tickets cost £3 per person and include a glass of wine or cup of tea or coffee.

Refreshments are available from 6.30pm, with Clare speaking from 7.15pm. To book a place call 01384 812770, email [libraries@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@dudley.gov.uk) or enquire at the Archives Centre. Ticket price may be paid in advance or on the door.

# Carers help to shape the future

**Dudley Carers Alliance is seeking the views of Dudley Borough carers to help shape the future of services to support carers and their families.**

The alliance is a partnership organisation led by Dudley Council which was formed earlier this year to support the many people caring for friends or family across Dudley Borough.

An online survey has been set up on the alliance's website which they are hoping as many carers as possible will complete. The alliance wants to collate information on the challenges that face carers in their caring role, the kinds of support that carers would like and how and where they would like to find information and support.

The information gathered will help to identify the key issues that carers are facing and will be used to develop future support services for borough carers.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet lead for adult social care, Dudley Council said: "You are a carer if you provide unpaid help and support to a partner, child, parent, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without your help. Whatever the situation, caring can be very hard work. Unpaid carers often neglect themselves and their own needs and caring can become a struggle."

"The survey currently being run by Dudley Carers Alliance will ensure that we are listening to carers and using their views to develop future carers support services."

The alliance offers information, advice and guidance to support and empower all carers, irrespective of age or circumstance. Help on offer includes things such as financial advice and options for practical support help with getting time to yourself, advice on keeping healthy and well, support to feel less stressed and guidance on planning for the future.



United – Dudley Carers Alliance

The survey can be found on the alliance website at [www.dudleycarersalliance.org.uk/index.html](http://www.dudleycarersalliance.org.uk/index.html) and will run until November 15. Contact Dudley Carers Alliance for expert, impartial help and advice on 01384 818723.

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## CHRISTMAS IN AND AROUND DUDLEY



# Help to manage your Christmas finances



Dharminder Dhaliwal, business and finance manager at Castle and Credit Union with Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing

Following the successful launch of the Engage card, Castle & Crystal has launched a money management tool in time for Christmas to help people manage their festive finances.

Budgeting for Christmas has never been easier with the free 'Envelopes' money management tool available online and via an app.

'Envelopes' is just one of the benefits of the pre-paid Engage debit card available at Castle & Crystal which also offers cash back rewards of up to 15 per cent at participating high street retailers.

The money management tool enables people to place money aside for bills, rent payments and other expenses, to prevent accidentally overspending, as well as the ability

to save for special occasions and pay bills automatically.

Castle & Crystal is an ethical, not-for-profit alternative to banks and other financial companies, allowing people within the local community to save and borrow money whilst keeping money circulating within the local area.

Everyone who lives or works in the borough of Dudley and the county of Worcestershire can sign-up and order their free Engage card.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This latest launch from Castle & Crystal should bring great benefits to local people who are looking for this kind of account."

"This is an ethical alternative and is aimed at giving back rewards to people when they shop at Christmas

**Christmas in Dudley**

and helping them manage their personal budgets at the same time."

Christmas loans are available from Castle & Crystal to new and existing members between 3 October and 19 December. For full details about the Engage card or to sign-up for an account call 01384 815771 or visit the branch at 25 New Street, Dudley or visit [www.castleandcrystal.co.uk](http://www.castleandcrystal.co.uk)

# Indulgent afternoon tea at Himley Hall

People looking to give their loved ones an indulgent gift this Christmas can buy vouchers for afternoon tea at Himley Hall.

The landmark building, which was once the top destination for Royals and other elite members of society, now offers afternoon tea throughout the year.

The experience includes the opportunity to enjoy tea, sandwiches, sweet pastries and scones in one of the grand rooms, before enjoying a stroll through the grounds designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Vouchers are per person and start at £19.95 with options to add a glass of sparkling Prosecco or gin and tonic.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for halls, said: "If you are struggling for a gift idea for someone who enjoys the finer things in life then this will make the perfect present this Christmas."

Afternoon tea at Himley Hall must be pre-booked and is offered on specific weekday dates each month. Individual, small party or large group bookings are available up to a maximum of 100 people.

Vouchers are available online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall) or by calling Himley Hall on 01384 817817.



Add a glass of sparkling Prosecco or gin and tonic



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## Christmas in Dudley

### Multi-million pound regeneration plans

A multi-million pound regeneration masterplan in Dudley spanning ten years came under the national spotlight during a high profile Ministerial visit of the borough. The decade-long plan to reshape Dudley's skyline is at the midway point with millions of pounds worth of investment. A further £70million is already in the pipeline as Dudley Council plans to work with partners on the next five years of the plan.

Marcus Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, was invited to meet MPs and council chiefs. Mr Jones heard about the millions of pounds the council has helped secure for Castle Hill, with more to come, which will increase the number of visitors to more than one million every year. Key projects now in the pipeline include the £28million Very Light Rail innovation centre and plans to increase the number of visitors at Black Country Living Museum from 300,000 to 500,000.

The council has also helped secure more than £15million to improve the layout, parking, entrance and exits at Dudley Zoo and Castle. The finishing touches were also recently put to the town's new £6million market place where trade has existed since the medieval times, followed by the £1million redevelopment of Coronation Gardens.

A total £3million has been spent breathing new life into old and tired buildings through the Townscape Heritage Initiative with a further £2million already in the pipeline for the next phase up to 2021. The project prompted national recognition when the council's planners won the Royal Town Planning Institute West Midlands Regional Awards for Excellence for their work in bringing the town's former Victorian fire station, back into use as a modern bar and restaurant.

The Mayor of Dudley is set to pay tribute at Armistice and Remembrance Sunday services in the town.

On Friday November 11 veterans will join council staff, councillors and members of the public at the Clock Tower in Priory Street for the annual Armistice Day to mark the end of the First World War service.

The service starts at 11am and includes the laying of wreaths and a two minute silence.

Priory Street will be closed on the morning and alternative routes

and signposted throughout the closures from 8am to 1pm.

On Sunday November 13 a Remembrance Day service will take place at the cenotaph in Ednam Road at 10.40am.

Ex-service men and women, along with community groups, will parade from Vicar Street at approximately 10.30am, and move along High Street, Stone Street, Priory Street, Priory Road and end in Ednam Road by the cenotaph.

Uniformed organisations will meet in Vicar Street from 10am.



Remembrance services will take place across the borough

Several road closures will be in place to make sure the event runs smoothly and safely including Priory Road, Ednam Road, New

Street, Tower Street, Priory Street, Stone Street, St James's Road, Parsons Street, Market Place, High Street, Wolverhampton Street, Union Street and Vicar Street.

People can pay their respects by placing a poppy in the special cross of remembrance at the Clock Tower in Priory Street.

The cross is available at all times of the day or night for people to pay their personal tributes to people who have lost their lives.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: "Both the

Armistice and Remembrance events are always extremely popular with our residents and they always help make each one a moving tribute to the sacrifices made by our armed forces heroes."

A Festival of Remembrance concert with the popular Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will take place at Dudley Town Hall on Thursday, November 10.

Tickets cost £10 from the box office on 01384 812812 or by visiting Dudley Council's website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

## National theatre live at town hall

Theatre fans continue to show their appreciation with ever-growing audiences for Stourbridge Town Hall's National Theatre Live programme.

The next performance will be Alan Bennett's *Diaries* live on November 16, a candid look into the mind of Britain's best-loved writer, who, at 82, shows no signs of slowing down. The event will include a screening of *Alan Bennett's Diaries*, a new film about the writer, followed by an exclusive Q&A from his local library in Primrose Hill.

On December 15, Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart star in Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*. Following their hit run on Broadway, the duo return to the West End stage in the performance which will be broadcast live to cinemas from Wyndham's Theatre, London.

One summer's evening, two ageing writers, Hirst and Spooner,

meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night at Hirst's stately house nearby. As the pair become increasingly inebriated, and their stories increasingly unbelievable, the lively conversation soon turns into a revealing power game, further complicated by the return home of two sinister younger men. The broadcast will be followed by an exclusive Q&A with the cast and director Sean Mathias.

Stratford's finest comes to Stourbridge with a performance of *The Tempest* broadcast live from the Royal Shakespeare Company on January 11.

Simon Russell Beale returns to the RSC after 20 years to play Prospero in a production directed by artistic director Gregory Doran. Combining live performance with technology will allow audiences to experience the magic of the island.

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Amadeus on February 2. Peter Shaffer's iconic play is making a return to the National Theatre after winning multiple Olivier and Tony Awards when it premiered at the venue in 1979. Broadcast live from the National Theatre, and with live orchestral accompaniment by Southbank Sinfonia it tells the tale of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy, who arrives in Vienna, the music capital of the world – determined to make a splash.

On February 16, Gemma Arterton stars in *Saint Joan*, broadcast live from the Donmar Warehouse. Bernard Shaw's classic play follows the life and trial of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France.

As one of the first Protestants and nationalists, she threatens the very fabric of the feudal society and the Catholic Church across Europe.



Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart in Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*

Finally, it's Ibsen's masterpiece, *Hedda Gabler* on March 9 which tells the tale of a young wife, desperate for her freedom.

*Hedda* and Tesman have just returned from their honeymoon and the relationship is already in trouble. Trapped but determined, *Hedda* tries to control those

around her, only to see her own world unravel.

Tony Award-winning director Ivo van Hove (*A View from the Bridge* at the Young Vic Theatre) returns to National Theatre Live screens with a modern production of Ibsen's masterpiece.

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## Full Throttle

Show that needs no costumes – Page 37

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Tomorrow, 7pm  
**O2 Academy, Birmingham**  
Singer-songwriter from West Sussex, who had an instant impact with hit single Another Love in 2012, has sold out this date on the back of a new album. See [academybirmingham.com/o2a](http://academymusicgroup.com/o2a)

**Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes...**

Tue,  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.  
Call 01902 552122

**Queen Extravaganza**  
Wed,  
Victoria Hall, Hanley,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Bay City Rollers**  
starring Les McKeown  
Wed,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Courteeners**  
Thu,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**CLASSICAL**

**Spectacular Classics**  
Tomorrow, £16.50 - £42.50  
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham. B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Opera Anywhere presents The Magic Flute – Mozart**  
Tomorrow,  
The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses,  
B15 3TR.  
Call 0121 454 1860

**Chandos: The Friends 25th Anniversary Concert**  
Sun,  
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.  
Call 01684 892277

**Hemantika**  
Sun,  
The Crescent Theatre,  
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,  
B16 8AE.  
Call 0121 643 5858

**FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC**

**Forever in Blue Jeans**  
Tomorrow, £19.50  
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester,  
WR1 3LD.  
Call 01905 611427

**Traditional Irish Music**  
Mon,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

**Jack Garrett**  
Tue,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Foster & Allen in Concert**  
Wed,  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
Call 01543 412121

**The 3rd UK Blues Challenge**

Saturday, 7pm  
**Robin 2, Bilston**  
Brum-based blues belter Rebecca Downes (pictured) features with Willie & The Bandits, Dove & Bowevil and Kaz Hawkins in a battle of the blues with a trophy for the winner. See [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk)

**COMEDY**

**Comedy 42 – November**  
Tonight,  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
Call 01543 412121

**Paul Foot: 'Tis a Pity She's a Piglet**  
Tonight,  
Glee Club Birmingham, The Arcadian Center, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**CLUBBING**

**Decade of Muzik**  
Hertz meets Philly Blunt  
Tonight, 11pm - tomorrow, 5am  
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
Call 0121 753 1818

**POP**

**80's Mania**  
Tomorrow,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 42 92 12

**Voulez-Vous**  
Tomorrow, £26  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.  
Call 01527 65203

**Julia Fordham – Live By Request**  
Tue,  
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN**

**Clare Teal**  
Sun,  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
Call 01543 412121

**Jazz Tuesdays**  
Tue,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

**LatinMotion presents Del Camino**  
Thu,  
The Jam House, Birmingham,  
B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

**Alabama 3 (celebrating their 20 years anniversary)**  
Thu,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Masterclass: Dynamics Of Colour**  
Wed,  
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham,  
B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Dirty Dancing**  
Tonight - tomorrow,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

**THEATRE****Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes**

Tuesday, 7pm  
**The Slade Rooms, W'ton**  
The punk-influenced rock band with a fearsome live reputation will get this intimate venue rocking to the sound of their forthcoming Modern Ruin album including new single Lullaby. See [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

**Ellen Kent's Nabucco**  
Tonight,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham,  
B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Waiting for Godot**  
Tonight - Thu,  
Hall Green Little Theatre,  
Birmingham,  
B27 7RY.  
Call 0121 707 1874

**Kiss Me Kate**  
Tonight - tomorrow, £16.50  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

**The Commitments**  
Mon - Thu,  
Regent Theatre,  
Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**An Evening With Michael Parkinson (cancelled)**  
Mon,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
B'ham,  
B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Les Contes D'Hoffman**  
Tue, £16 - £17  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,  
SY8 1AZ.  
Call 01584 878141

**Our House**  
Tue - Thu,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 42 92 12

**The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes**  
Wed,  
The Birmingham & Midland Institute,  
B3 3BS.  
Call 0121 236 3591

**Looking For John**  
Wed - Thu, £10 - £13.50  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
Library of Birmingham,  
B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**A Christmas Carol – Junior Production 2016**  
Thu,  
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre,  
King Edward's School,  
Birmingham, B15 2UA.  
Call 0121 472 9585

**Psychic Sally – Call Me Psychic**  
Thu,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016**  
Thu,  
The Crescent Theatre,  
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,  
B16 8AE.  
Call 0121 643 5858

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Nothing to lose but inhibitions



They can keep their hat on – the cast of The Full Monty, the musical about steel workers who become strippers

THE hit musical about jobless Yorkshire steel workers who find a revealing way to make money, The Full Monty, arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday for a six day run.

Nearly 20 years ago the movie about six out-of-work Sheffield steelmen, left with nothing to lose but there inhibitions, went on to be one of the most successful British films. The story still resonates in an age of job insecurity.

Simon Beaufoy, the Oscar and BAFTA-winning writer, adapted his own screenplay for the hilarious and heartfelt stage production, which features iconic songs by Donna Summer, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

This touring production of the former West End hit is led by Gary Lucy as Gaz, with Andrew Dunn as Gerald, Louis Emerick as Horse, Chris Fountain as Guy and Kai Owen as Dave. Anthony Lewis will now be playing the role of Lomper as Joe Absolom had to withdraw due to filming commitments.

Anthony Lewis is best known as Marc Reynolds in Emmerdale. Gary Lucy played Danny Pennant in EastEnders, DS Will Fletcher in The Bill, Kyle Pascoe in Footballer's Wives and Luke Morgan in Hollyoaks, and was a runner-up in Dancing on Ice.

Andrew Dunn is best known as Tony in Dinnerladies, while Louis

Emerick played Mick Johnson in the Merseyside soap Brookside and PC Walsh in the long-running sitcom Last of the Summer Wine.

Chris Fountain played Tommy Duckworth in Coronation Street and was a runner-up of Dancing on Ice. Kai Owen is best known for his roles in Torchwood and Hollyoaks.

Director Jack Ryder, who is best known for playing Jamie Mitchell in EastEnders, also directed the national touring production of hit show Calendar Girls.

For tickets see [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

## Is Our House up your street?

BILSTON Operatic Company return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with the Madness musical Our House, following the success of last year's production of Hairspray.

The show, which starts a five-day run on Tuesday, combines a witty romance with the energetic songs of Madness. It follows Joe Casey who, on his 16th birthday, takes Sarah, the girl of his dreams, out on their first date. In an effort to impress her with bravado, he breaks into a building site overlooking his home on Casey Street. The police turn up at which point Joe's life splits into two – Good Joe, who stays to help, and Bad Joe, who flees.

Our House won the Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 2003 and ran for 10 months at London's Cambridge Theatre. It features the songs It Must Be Love, Baggy Trousers, Night Boat To Cairo, House Of Fun, Driving In My Car and, of course, Our House.

This amateur production is directed and choreographed by Laura Canadine. Birmingham Ormiston Academy student Ben Evans from Lower Penn plays Joe and playing Sarah is Abi Strudwickie, of Codsall Wood, who is head girl at Thomas Telford School. Both are pictured left.

Mike James and Sue Towler play Joe's parents with the cast of talented local performers also including Tom Withers, Matt Coombes, Jordan Barrett, Katie Harrison, Jacob Kholi and Al Smith.

For tickets see [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) or call 01902 429212.

Bilston Operatic Society's productions at the Grand in recent years have also included Hairspray, Peter Pan, Annie and Hello, Dolly!



### Boogie nights and much more at Robin

SOUL, blues, southern boogie and jazz-rock are all on the agenda at Bilston's Robin 2 over the next week.

On Friday 70s British disco favourites The Real Thing and Heatwave team up at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Top blues acts compete in the 3rd UK Blues Challenge on Saturday and former Amen Corner frontman Andy Fairweather Low brings his Lowriders for a soul night on Sunday.

Florida rock legends Molly Hatchet visit on Monday, the Danny Giles Band lead a triple bill of blues on Tuesday and jazz-rock pioneers Soft Machine play on Wednesday.

### Get the Sweats with soulful sounds

KEY gigs this week include the return of acclaimed live act Nathaniel Rateliff & The Nite Sweats with stomping soulful sounds at the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Monday.

You can take in reggae classics at the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Saturday when the late Bob Marley's backing band The Wailers spread One Love vibes.

Or get your fill of punky J rock when Tokyo outfit Mutant Monster and Touch My Secret hit the Hare and Hounds in King's Heath on Monday. That venue also hosts The Wave Pictures on Monday in the other room and ex-Icicle Works frontman Ian McNabb on Tuesday.

### Big hair and great tunes from the 80s

BIG hair, check; shoulder pads, check; neon colours, check; so it's time to return to the 1980s.

80's Mania Show is Europe's official 1980s multi-tribute concert, with organisers declaring: "If you love the 80s – do not miss this show."

The show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday features 25 chart-topping pop icons recreated with live band and awesome dancers.

They perform more than 35 hits with tributes to Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, The Human League, Adam Ant, Madness and many more.

# SALTWELLS INN

"Good Food at Great Prices"

Now taking bookings for Christmas

[www.saltwellsinn.co.uk](http://www.saltwellsinn.co.uk) To make a booking call: 01384 569224

### SPECIAL NIGHTS

#### Tuesday

##### PIE AND PUD NIGHT

Choose from a Selection of Pies served with Mash or Chips, Peas and Gravy. Includes any pudding from the menu

**£6.95**

#### Wednesday

##### THE BURGER CLUB

Handmade 6oz Burgers Served with different sauces and accompaniments From 5 pm

**£6.95**

#### Thursday

##### CURRY NIGHT

Order any Curry and get a Pint of Carlsberg or Tetley's for just

**£1.00**

#### Friday

##### STEAK NIGHT

Served with Chips, Mushrooms and Onion Rings! From 5 pm  
x 2 Sirloins for £10.00  
x 2 T-Bones for £20.00

**Bookings now being taken for Christmas**

### FESTIVE MENU

**2 course £7.95**

**3 course £10.00**



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12-3

### FAMILIES WELCOME

2 Large Outdoor Play Areas

### SUNDAY ROAST

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Full menu available throughout

**TWO FOR £10.00**

**ALL DAY ...  
EVERYDAY!**

\* GAMMON \* PLAICE  
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**THE FELLOWS**  
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### Festive Menu

#### AVAILABLE BETWEEN:

1st December - 23rd December

For tables up to 15 people

#### For bigger tables see party menu

All meals must be pre-ordered and deposit paid

**2 Course Festive £11.95**

**3 Course Festive £14.95**

See the full menu on our website or facebook page

### Party Menu

Starters and Pudding

Served to your table

#### Main Courses

Served by a chef from the hot buffet table



A discretionary 10% service charge will be added to the food total and given to the serving and kitchen team.

**TEL: 01384 243 600 [www.thefellowsdudley.co.uk](http://www.thefellowsdudley.co.uk)**

## CHOICE

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **9.15 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show. **12.35** Football Focus. **12.35 Bargain Hunt.** **(R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather.** **1.15** Four Nations Rugby League. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **Scrum v Australia.** **(R) 4.30 Escapade to the Country.** **5.15 Celebrity Mastermind.** **(R) 5.45 BBC News.** **5.55 Regional Programme.**

**6.05 Pointless Celebrities.** Edition focusing on the subjects of music, with Sinitta, Jaymi Hensley, Vernie Bennett, Easther Bennett, Claire Richards, Jan 'H' Watkins, Tony Christie and Ben Adams. **(R)**

**6.55 Strictly Come Dancing.** The eight remaining couples show off their skills on the dance-floor, as Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood appraise their form.

**8.10 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by showing off as much as they know about a given subject.

**9.00 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.** Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, Laura Mvula, Birdy and Alexander Armstrong perform alongside the Royal Air Force Squadronaires and the Band of HM Royal Marines. Together, they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

**10.40 BBC News: Weather.** National Lottery Update.

**11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage.** Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hoppen and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter louts, toilet-roll covers and loud noise. **(R)**

**11.40 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream.** Romesh Ranganathan reunites with his mum in Los Angeles, where they visit the set of a US soap, go undercover with a private detective, and attend a Comic Con. Last in the series.

**12.10 Film:** The Rebound. **(2009) 1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.05 Film:** Government Girl. **(1943) 7.35** The Women's Football Show. **(R) 8.10** Film: Suspicion. **(1941) 9.45 Secret Britain.** **(R) 10.45** The Good Cook. **(R) 11.15 Hairy Bikers: Best of British.** **(R) 12.15** The Best Dressed Event. **(R) 12.45** Homes Under the Hammer. **(R) 1.30 Talking Pictures.** **2.15 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. **(1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy, 4.00 Flog It!**

**7.30 International Rugby Union.** England v South Africa. Jason Mohammad presents highlights from Twickenham, where the autumn international schedule got underway with this match against the touring Springboks. England coach Eddie Jones picked the uncapped Sale full-back Mike Haley, Saracens fly-half Alex Lozowski, Bath lock Charlie Ewels, Harlequin prop Kyle Sinckler, Wasps forward Nathan Hughes and Worcester centre Ben Te'o for this series. Northampton flanker Tom Wood also returned to the squad amid an injury crisis in the back row, with Gloucester pair Ben Morgan and Jonny May, alongside Bath second row Dave Attwood, also coming back into the fold. With analysis from Jeremy Guscott and commentary by Alastair Eykyn and Brian Moore.

**8.30 Baileystoyz – Young Men.** Feature-length documentary film without dialogue shot on location in northern France, featuring dancers from the Baileystoyz company.

**9.30 Film: Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.** **(2013) Premier.** Biopic of the South African political leader, following his rise to become one of the most prominent activists against the apartheid regime. His campaign results in his imprisonment, with wife Winnie continuing the struggle. His release after several decades brings fresh challenges, as he becomes the country's first democratically elected president and must find a way to build a united nation.

**11.50 Film: Red Tails.** **(2012) Black US fighter pilots battle both the German air force and racism in their own ranks.** Based on a true Second World War drama, starring Terrence Howard.

**1.50 This Is BBC Two.** **5.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** **(R)**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **(R) 6.20** Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. **(R) 6.45** Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. **(R) 6.45** Solty. **(R) 7.00 Super 4.** **(R) 7.15 Oddbods.** **(R) 7.25 Scrambled:** Scrambled! **7.30 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. **(R) 7.50 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. **(R) 8.10 Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!** **9.05 Scrambled:** Adventure Time. **(R) 9.25 ITV News.**

**9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** **(R) 10.20** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.20** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. **(R) 11.50 Judge Rinder.** **(R) 12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00 Cash Trapped.** **(R) 1.55** This Time Next Year. **(R) 2.55 Big Star's Little Star.** **(R) 4.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **4.20 The Chase.** **(R) 5.25 Regional Programme;** Weather. **5.40 ITV News;** Weather.

**6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Johnny Vegas, Linda Robson and Ann Widdecombe answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

**7.00 Meet the Parents.** Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby.

**8.00 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary hosts as the live show phase continues, and the tension mounts as the remaining contestants are put through yet another set of nail-biting performances. As always, Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger and Simon Cowell take their seats at the judges desks, as the would-be stars sing in front of the panel – and the nation. The celebrity panelists will all be hoping the acts they've mentored will be throwing themselves into the music as the contest's conclusion looms ever closer.

**9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson, singer Robbie Williams, comedian Micky Flanagan and Little Mix.

**10.30 ITV News:** Weather.

**10.45 Film:** The Bourne Ultimatum. **(2007) The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, just as a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him.** Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn.

**12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10 Gillette World Sport.** **6.40 Mobil 1 Grid.** **7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond.** **(R) 7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.00** Frasier. **(R) 8.30** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** Deal or No Deal.

**1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.00 Jamie's Super Food.** **(R) 4.30** Location, Location, Location. **(R) 5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 China: Between Clouds and Mountains.** The second in this series of intimate films continues the stories of Chinese schoolchildren, mothers and journalists investigating the effects of climate change across this vast country. Tibetan monks discover the threat to the snow leopard's habit caused by a planned dam on the Yangtze river, four schoolchildren investigate why people in their town are suffering from mystery illnesses and a young mother takes on the might of a factory which she believes is causing cancer among local inhabitants.

**8.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying – Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 20th round of the season, which takes place at Interlagos in São Paulo. Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg secured the front position on the grid at last year's race, as he finished 0.78 seconds faster than his teammate Lewis Hamilton.

**9.30 Film: Non-Stop.** **(2014) An air marshal on an international flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid.** He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot.

**11.40 Film:** Underworld: Awakening. **(2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a plot to annihilate the undead.** Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale.

**1.20 Hollyoaks.** **3.25** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. **(R) 4.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R) 4.30** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.15** Wedding Town. **5.45** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **(R) 10.45 House Doctor.** **(R) 11.45** Film: A Bride for Christmas. **(2012) Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel and Andrew Walker.** **1.25 Film:** Chasing Liberty. **(2004) Family drama, starring Delta Burke.** **3.30** FIA Formula E. **(R) 4.00** The Marrakech ePrix.

**5.30 Film:** 2012. **(2009) Disaster movie, starring John Cusack.**

**6.25 NCIS: New Orleans.** A naval psychologist is found dead in close proximity to the route of a traditional New Orleans second-line funeral procession. When the agents investigate, they discover the victim had been secretly photographing the parade, and LaSalle is attacked by an unknown assailant. Delving further into the mysteries surrounding the case, the team uncovers a complex plot involving the founder of New Orleans, grave robbers, and what seems to be a dead man walking.

**9.20 NCIS: New Orleans.** A US Navy lieutenant dies from arsenic poisoning while secretly visiting an Army general's hotel room.

When an old friend asks Pride to keep the subsequent investigation under wraps, it becomes clear the woman may have been killed to cover up an affair that could jeopardise a war hero's chances of securing a position with Homeland Security. However, when the emerald green of the victim was also investigated, it emerges that among port authorities, involving the theft of millions of dollars from the US Government, a new motive for murder becomes clear.

**10.15 That's So 1985.** A look at events in 1985 using news, pop and TV archive clips to provide a reminder of the time, including the Live Aid concert prompted by the famine in Ethiopia. **(R)**

**11.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Coventry City v Scunthorpe United, and Luton Town v Accrington Stanley.

**12.15 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. Julian Norton tries to save a much-loved farm dog. **(R) 4.00** Storm Force: The Big Bang Theory: Wizard Weekend. **9.00 Film:** Magic Mike. **(2012) 11.15** Gogglebox. **12.20** Rue 21. **12.25** The Inbetweeners. **2.35** New Girl. **4.00** The Mindy Project. **4.45** Revenge. **Film4**

**11.00 Black-ish.** **12.00** The Goldbergs. **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **2.00** Film: Aliens in the Attic. **(2013) 3.45** Rude(ish). **Tube Shorts 4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Wizard Weekend. **9.00 Film:** Magic Mike. **(2012) 11.15** Gogglebox. **12.20** Rue 21. **12.25** The Inbetweeners. **2.35** New Girl. **4.00** The Mindy Project. **4.45** Revenge. **Film4**

**11.00** The Last Frontier. **(1955)**

**1.00 Home Alone.** **(1990) 3.05** The Spy Next Door. **(2010) 4.55** Carry On Spying. **(1964) 6.45** I, Robot. **(2004) 9.00** Gladiator. **(2000) 12.00** 48 Hours. **(1982) 1.55** Sorority Row. **(2009) 4.00 Close**

## DIGITAL

## BBC Four

**7.00** India's Frontier Railways. **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey. **9.00** Deep Water. **10.50** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park. **12.15** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story. **1.15** Top of the Pops. **(1982) 2.35** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park. **3.55** Close

## ITV2

**11.00** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation. **12.30 Film:** The Lake House. **(2006) 1.30** FYI Daily. **1.35 Film:** The Lake House. **(2006) 2.35 Film:** Honey. **(2003) 3.35** FYI Daily. **3.40** Film: Honey. **(2003) 4.40** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. **(1993) 5.40** Film: Honey. **5.45 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd. **(1993) 6.25 Film:** Arthur. **(2011) 7.25 Film:** The 30 Film: Arthur. **(2011) 8.30** Scorpion. **9.30 Film:** The X Factor. **10.00** Celebrity Juice.

**11.00** Prank Pad. **1.00** Family Guy. **1.30** American Dad. **2.00** BorderTown. **2.25** Totally Bonkers. **Guinness World Records 2.50** Teleshopping. **5.50** ITV2

## ITV3

**12.05 Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. **(1973) 1.40** Inspector Morse. **4.00** Midsumers Murders. **7.55** Doc Martin. **9.00** Endeavour. **11.00** The Blonde Bombshell. **1.10** Wycliffe. **2.10** TV3. **2.50** Teleshopping. **2.50** ITV3

## ITV4

**12.45 Snooker: Champion of Champions Live.** The opening session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **5.20** Storage Wars. **Texas 5.45** Storage Wars. **6.45** Snooker: Champion of Champions Live.

The second session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **11.15 Film:** Born to Raise Hell. **(2010) 12.15** FYI Daily. **12.20** Film: Born to Raise Hell. **(2010) 1.20** Monster Camp. **2.20** Tommy Cooper. **2.45** ITV4. **7.00** Nostalgia. **8.00** The Mindy Project. **8.45** Revenge. **Film4**

**11.00** The Last Frontier. **(1955)**

**1.00** Home Alone. **(1990) 3.05** The Spy Next Door. **(2010) 4.55** Carry On Spying. **(1964) 6.45** I, Robot. **(2004) 9.00** Gladiator. **(2000) 12.00** 48 Hours. **(1982) 1.55** Sorority Row. **(2009) 4.00 Close**

## Star Reader Travel



## Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.55pm)

For many fans, Halloween Week is one of the highlights of the Strictly calendar, and it certainly delivered this year. The wardrobe and makeup departments let their imaginations run away with them, although arguably the biggest shock came when Ed Balls scored an eight for his mad-scientist-themed cha cha (followed closely by Danny Mac proving he is fallible after all when he stumbled in his foxtrot). But now another Strictly milestone is looming as next week, the show will be coming to us live from Blackpool, and none of the eight remaining celebs will want to miss out on a trip to ballroom dancing's spiritual home. But who will impress judges and the voting public?

## Star Reader Travel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

## NEW FLORIMANIA at Hampton Court &amp; Windsor

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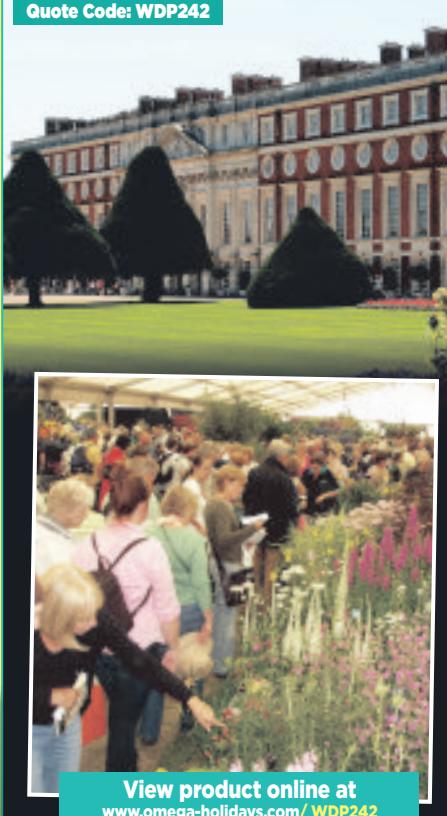
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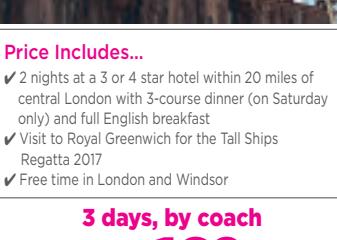
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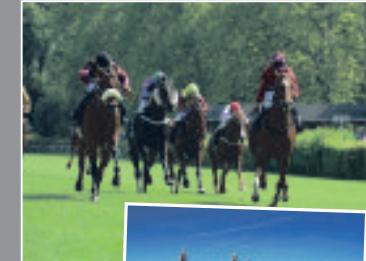
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Departing Saturday 8 April 2017



Price Includes...  
✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star North West area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast  
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## CHOICE



Eileen O'Higgins

## My Mother and Other Strangers (BBC1, 9pm)

Take a trip back in time with this new drama to Northern Ireland during the Second World War. Hattie Morahan heads the cast as Rose, the matriarch of the Coyne family. English born and bred, she followed her husband Michael to his home in Moybeg, where she has since raised three children. Wartime seems exciting to their young son Francis, whose friend tries to persuade him to explore the local air base dump, while teenage daughter Emma falls for one of the American airmen stationed there. But it's Captain Dreyfuss who will have the biggest impact on the family's lives when he and Rose form an undeniable bond that threatens the future happiness of her loved ones.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.20** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.30** The People Remember. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Live Four Nations Rugby League, England v Australia (kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Planet Earth II. **(R) 5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.

**6.10 Regional Programme.**

**6.15 Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special.** Helen Skelton joins a cycle ride across Northern France commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and discovers how bicycles were used on the front line in the First World War. John Craven discovers how tractors played a role in the development of tanks. Ellie Harrison visits the National Memorial Arboretum, and Jules Hudson reveals how the countryside helped one soldier's recovery. Including weather for the week ahead.

**7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. The professional dancers give a performance for Remembrance Day and Andre Rieu performs Hallelujah.

**8.00 Planet Earth II.** Animals that live in mountain ranges, including rival snow leopards, grizzly bears using trees to shed their winter fur, and golden eagles hunting over snow-capped peaks.

**9.00 My Mother and Other Strangers.** New series. Drama set in Northern Ireland during the Second World War following the fortunes of a family living near a United States Army Air Force airfield. Hattie Morahan stars.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 The Selfless Sikh: Faith on the Frontline.** Documentary following Sikh aid worker Ravi Singh, who was inspired by his faith's teachings to travel to Iraq and provide support for Yazidi families fleeing persecution by Isis.

**11.00 DIY SOS at Great Ormond Street Hospital.** The DIY SOS team embarks on a special challenge, transporting Chris Beardshaw's Chelsea Flower Show garden to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, and rebuilding it on the roof. **(R)**

**12.00 Citizen Khan.** **(R) 12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above.** **(R) 7.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. **(R) 7.45** Greatest Gardens. **(R) 8.15** Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children's Board. **(R) 9.30** Saturday Kitchen. **9.30** Best British Food and Cook. **(R) 11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. **(R) 12.00** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 1.00** International Rugby Union. **(R) 2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Coverage of the opening day at the O2 in London. **5.00** Fog It! **(R) 5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights.

**6.30 Film:** Miss Potter. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter is unable to find a firm willing to give her book based on a character called Peter Rabbit a chance, until a timid publisher with whom she falls in love takes on her project. Biographical period drama, starring Renée Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Emily Watson and Barbara Flynn.

**8.00 Operation Gold Rush with Dan Snow.** The team arrives at Dawson City, and sets up a mining camp in the gold fields. They have just five days to find gold using only traditional 19th-century methods. Last in the series.

**9.00 Will Britain Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?** David Harewood presents a documentary examining the obstacles that make it difficult for black people to rise to positions of power and influence in British society.

**10.00 Black Is the New Black.** Romi Harkiss, David Harewood, Tini Tempah, Trevor McDonald and Alesha Dixon share their thoughts on growing up, touching on family, school and the working world.

**10.30 Later... with JoJo Holland: Groove & Grime.** JoJo presents a compilation of archive clips featuring black artists, including performances by D-Influence, Emeli Sandé, Craig David, Stormzy, Mark Morrison and Dizzee Rascal.

**11.30 Film:** She's Out of My League. (2010) An average man begins a relationship with a beautiful and clever woman, but is haunted by the fear that she can do better than him. Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel and Alice Eve.

**12.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights.**

**12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **(R) 6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **(R) 6.20** Dino Dan: Treks' Adventures. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.45** Sooty. **(R) 6.55** Stories. **(R) 7.00** The Smurfs. **(R) 7.15** Oddbods. **(R) 7.25** Scrambled!: Monsters. **(R) 7.30** Scrambled!: Nords & Monsters. **(R) 7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **(R) 7.50** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **(R) 9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. **(R) 11.30** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 12.15** ITW News; Weather. **12.35** The Chase. **(R) 1.35** The X Factor. **(R) 3.05** Midsummers Murders. **(R) 5.00** Tipping Point. **(R) 6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather.

**6.30 Off Their Rockers.** Katie Price joins the old age pranksters.

**7.00 The Next Great Magician.** Jim Carter and Amy Childs help some of the second batch of performers with their illusions.

**8.00 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, revealing which is through to the next stage before a sing-off decides which act will be eliminated from the contest.

**9.00 I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!** Halle Berry, Ant and Dec return to the jungles of Murwillumbah in New South Wales, Australia to present the latest series of the celebrity survival challenge. Contestants foregoing their creature comforts to brave the hardships of the Bush for this series are unconcerned at the time of going to press, but all will no doubt face a struggle to complete the gruelling daily physical and mental tasks, as well as taking a mouthful of some of the region's more gruesome wildlife in the Bush Tucker Trials.

**10.45 ITV News:** Weather.

**11.05 The Pit of War: The Loves and Lives of the War Poets.** Fact-based First World War drama telling the story of poets Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and Robert Graves as they are confronted with the chaos of the trenches. With John Hurt and Alice Eve.

**11.30 Film:** She's Out of My League. (2010) An average man begins a relationship with a beautiful and clever woman, but is haunted by the fear that she can do better than him. Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel and Alice Eve.

**12.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights.**

**12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Triathlon:** Challenge Aruba. **6.40** Frasier. **(R) 7.05** Frasier. **(R) 7.30** Film: Imagine That. (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the British Grand Prix. **1.30** Formula 1. **2.45** Film: Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **4.50** Film: Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Last Heroes of the Somme.** The story of the Battle of the Somme was fought won after four months of fighting, as the British forces made one final desperate push, backed up by early tanks, that changed the course of the First World War. The film follows the families of seven soldiers who fought on the final day of the struggle 100 years previously, who share diaries and letters and pay a visit to the battlefield.

**8.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales venture into the open sea as they make their way through the islands of Scotland's coast. Their destination is the rarely used nine-mile Crinan canal on the Mull of Kintyre, described as the world's most beautiful shortcut. However, the Atlantic waves off the coast of Mull force them to head inland to Tobermory. They later explore the holy island of Iona and the Isle of Jura.

**9.00 Humans.** Athena arrives in the UK, and her tragic secret is revealed. Niska's consciousness assesses the world and the Synths are forced to abandon their hiding place, while Mira shocks her friends by making a decision with serious repercussions. Karen returns to work, but her relationship with Pete is strained, and Joe starts to notice something strange about Sophie's behaviour.

**10.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix.** Highlights. Action from the race at Interlagos in São Paulo, which served as the 20th and penultimate round of the season.

**12.05 Film:** The Sitter. (2011) Comedy, starring Jonah Hill. **1.45** The Last Leg. **(R) 2.40** Killing Kennedy. Drama about the assassination of JFK, starring Rob Lowe. **(R) 4.25** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R) 4.40** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.30** Wedding Town. **5.55** The King of Queens. **(R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bob Box. **(R) 6.10** Peppa Pig. **(R) 6.15** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 6.25** Bob the Builder. **(R) 6.40** Wallace and Gromit. **(R) 7.00** Robot Chicken. **(R) 7.15** Firedog Sam. **(R) 7.20** Pip Ahoy! **(R) 7.35** Little Princess. **(R) 7.45** Paw Patrol. **(R) 8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Noddy in Toyland. **(R) 9.05** Shimmer and Shine. **(R) 9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **(R) 10.00** Football 1-5: Goal Rush. **(R) 11.00** 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Gadget Show. **(R) 12.05** House Doctor. **(R) 1.05** Film: The Smurfs (2011) The Heart of Christmas. (2011) Drama, starring Cameron Diaz. **2.50** Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. **4.35** Film: One Christmas Eve. (2014) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Anne Heche.

**6.15 Film:** Married by Christmas. (2016) Premiere. The head of a family-run company realises she has to get married by Christmas or she will lose the business to her sister. Comedy, starring Jes Macallan and April Boulby. Includes 5 News at 7pm.

**8.00 Ice Road Traders.** Todd finds a novel way of clearing a melted ice crossing while Darrie and Lisa struggle to make it home and Alex faces a race against the clock.

**8.55 5 News.**

**9.00 Film:** Pompeii. (2014) Premiere. A gladiator in the ancient Roman city falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy senator. Pompeii is being forced into marriage with a corrupt senator. When the nearby volcano Vesuvius erupts, he fights to save her and escape the destruction of the city. Disaster movie, starring Kit Harington, Emily Browning, Carrie-Anne Moss and Kiefer Sutherland. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

**11.05 Film:** Red Dawn. (2012) Teenagers form a resistance movement when their home town is taken over by North Korean invaders. Action adventure remake, with Chris Hemsworth.

**12.05 Film:** The Sitter. (2011) Comedy, starring Jonah Hill. **1.45** The Last Leg. **(R) 2.40** Killing Kennedy. Drama about the assassination of JFK, starring Rob Lowe. **(R) 4.25** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R) 4.40** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.30** Wedding Town. **5.55** The King of Queens. **(R)**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

7.00 Canals – The Making of a Nation **7.30** Books That Made Britain **8.00** Jeremy Deller: We're here because we're **8.30** Railway Walks **9.00** Destination Titan **10.30** The Sky at Night **10.30** Cathy Come Home **11.50** Nature's Wonderlands: Islands of Evolution **12.50** Stuff: A Horizon Guide to Materials **1.50** Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.50** Close

**ITV2**

1.35 Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **3.20** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.20** FYI Daily **6.30** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **6.25** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** Film: The Hot Desk: Busted **10.45** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Vicki Pattison **3.15** TV4

**11.25** FYI Daily **11.30** Film: Black Beauty (1994) **12.10** A Touch of Frost **2.15** Film: Columbus: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.50** Film: The Queen (2006) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: The Queen (2006) **5.55** By Royal Appointment **7.45pm** The Making of a Lady **9.00** Appropriate Adult **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.10** My Life as a Wasp **3.30** Film: Fastest (2011) **2.20** Tommy Cooper **E4**

**11.30** Made in Chelsea **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30** Film: Scrooged (1988) **3.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.35** The Inbetweeners **12.40** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.50** Crazyhead **2.45** Body Fixers **Film4**

**11.00** Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **3.05** ParaNorman (2012) **4.55** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.55** Terminal Velocity (1994) **9.00** R.I.P.D. (2013) **11.00** The Last King of Scotland (2006) **1.30** Monsieur Lazhar (2011) **3.35** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

## MONDAY

## In Time, Channel 5, 11.05pm

Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living indefinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquires 100 years of time, and spends it fighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake. (2011)

## TUESDAY

## The March Sisters at Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Four sisters are shocked to learn their family home will have to be sold because of the massive amount of repair work it needs. When their parents go away, the girls come up with a plan to restore the place themselves and have it back to its former glory by Christmas. Drama inspired by Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, starring Julie Marie Berman. (2012)



In Time, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

## WEDNESDAY

## Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm

Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

## THURSDAY

## A Christmas Kiss, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An aspiring designer impulsively kisses a man she meets in a lift, only to discover he is her boss's boyfriend. She is given the task of decorating his house for a lavish Christmas party, but begins to fall in love with him – while he does not remember their previous encounter. Romantic drama, with Laura Brckenridge and Elisabeth Rohm. (2011)

## FRIDAY

## Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.15pm

A bumbling midshipman has his identity stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, and then ends up press-ganged on to the same ship. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills. (1963)

## New drama hopes to be a novel success

**A**ctress Phoebe Fox is clearly in demand at the moment – not only can she be seen in Stephen Poliakoff's latest series, Close to the Enemy, she's also cropping up in another one of BBC Two's most prestigious offerings, NW.

Adapted from Zadie Smith's best-selling novel, the feature-length drama follows Natalie (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and Leah (Fox), two friends who grew up together in north-west London, but whose lives have taken them in very different directions.

Phoebe explains: "Leah and Natalie both grew up on the same estate, they are best friends but they have reached a point in their lives where they are so far away from each other."

"Natalie's lost sight of who she is and it's hard for a friendship to survive when you don't recognise your best friend anymore. They love each other but they also sort of hate each other's guts. It's a very complicated relationship."

Her co-star Nikki adds: "Natalie

starts out life as Keisha. From a modest background, she's incredibly intelligent and driven, and pushes herself on to university, eventually becoming a barrister. She then marries the 'perfect' man, has two children and seems like she has the perfect life.

"She's a miracle of her own self-invention, but she reaches a point in her mid-thirties where she asks herself what it's all about and has an existential crisis. It's at this time in her life that we meet Natalie in NW."

So, at least she still has something in common with Leah, who is facing some big decisions of her own. Phoebe says: "She's dealing with something that is still quite taboo for women to talk about: she doesn't want to have kids. That's her main story within the book and the screenplay. We see her having to confront something which is seen as being so fundamentally female."

It's one of the elements that drew the actress to the role. "It's very rare to see such finely drawn female characters, for them to be dealing

with issues that are so true to life, instead of worrying about whether a guy likes them or not."

"As an actress you spend a lot of time in those kind of roles, falling in and out of love with the right and the wrong man; so to actually address deeper issues was really exciting. A lot of my friends don't want to have kids, it's not a cut and dry issue for our generation, so Leah felt very real – that really appealed to me."

And it's not just the characters that feel authentic – the contemporary London setting did too. Asked what viewers can expect from NW, Phoebe says: "I think people can expect a portrait of London with a very emotional core to it, depicting the city and its inhabitants, in all of its nastiness but also all of its glory."

The drama shows that Leah and Natalie are living in an area where poverty and wealth are just streets apart – and when they are both brought into contact with two other characters from their old estate, the tensions threaten to reach breaking point.



Nikki Amuka-Bird and Phoebe Fox star in NW, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

## MONDAY

## Children in Need Rocks for Terry

## BBC1, 8.30pm

Feanne Cotton and Greg James host a special concert staged at the Royal Albert Hall to honour broadcaster and Children in Need figurehead Terry Wogan, featuring performances by Take That, Ellie Goulding, Olly Murs, Gregory Porter, Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Rick Astley, Beverley Knight, Alexander Armstrong, the Vamps, Ward Thomas and Shaun Escoffery. There are also appeal films and archive clips of Terry's career, including a chance to relive one of the classic Radio 2 Janet and John Stories.

## TUESDAY

## Live International Football

## ITV, 7.30pm

England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his role as Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce's shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to

impress his superiors with a good performance here against the former world champions.

## WEDNESDAY

## This Time Next Year

## ITV, 8pm

Davina meets up with more people who want to change the course of their life over the space of a year. First up is a 16-year-old boy who has been unable to speak for six years after suffering damage to his windpipe. He's made the decision to undergo an operation, but will it help him to regain his voice? The presenter also talks to a father of three who is pledging to shed seven stones in weight, and Kathryn and Chris who are turning to surrogacy after Kathryn was told that a rare disease means she risks losing her sight if she carries their second child.

## THURSDAY

## DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for Children in Need

## BBC1, 8pm

DIY SOS highlights the plight of nation's 250,000 young carers,

who look after their parents on a daily basis. Blackpool Carers Trust, which is supported by funding from Children in Need, provides limited out-of-school respite and training activities for some of these carers – but its current centre is bursting at the seams. It has now inherited a bigger, broken-down property, which will require the renovation of a neglected building and a huge overgrown garden

– and that's where Nick and the team come in, with help from designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

## FRIDAY

## Children in Need 2016

## BBC1, 7.30pm

Tess Daly and Greg James introduce a night of entertainment as the BBC's annual appeal night gets underway, beginning with a performance from the hit West End musical Aladdin and a special children's edition of Would I Lie to You?

EastEnders performs a dance medley of 1980s movie classics, and a children's choir of over 1,500 members sings in unison across the nation. Plus, an exclusive first look of the Dr Who Christmas special. 8.30 Graham Norton and Ade Adepitan host as a group of children receives a very special surprise from Little Mix. Plus, an Olympic-themed Strictly Come Dancing featuring some of the members of Team GB. 9.00 Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins help Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne in his quest to find Pudsey Bear. 9.30 The final leg of The One Show's amazing rickshaw challenge. Plus, the first winner of The Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of Year is announced and Craig David is in the studio to perform the official Children in Need single, All We Needed.

## Rick Stein's Long Weekends

## BBC2, 9pm

The presenter visits the home of New Nordic cuisine – Copenhagen – where he goes foraging for rosehip and learns about the art of pickling buds, bark and flowers. He's cheered to find plenty of traditional favourites, such as the city's famous Smorrebrod open sandwiches on rye bread, delicious poached turbot with cabbage and lemon butter sauce and – of course – the ubiquitous Danish pastry.



Children in Need 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

## FREE ENTRY

# Come along to our Winter Wedding Fair

at Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive,  
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Sunday 20th November 2016 • 11.00am - 4.00pm

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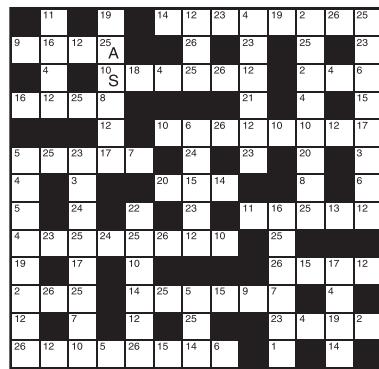
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## BRAIN GYM No.403

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	K	Y	G	V	O	L	H	A	T	R	S	Z
C	W	F	U	P	D	J	Q	B	X	M	E	I

## Quiz

1. Who was born Agnes Bojaxhiu in 1910? 7. From what fruit is the alcoholic drink perry made?  
 2. How is soya bean curd also known? 8. What is the common name of the annual plant Lycopersicon esculentum?  
 3. What is the largest lake in Italy? 9. Which English explorer discovered the magnetic North Pole in 1831?  
 4. With which drink is Armagnac associated?  
 5. Which is the largest desert?  
 6. For what, in America, is the Grand Old Party a popular name?

10. In which city did the Peterloo massacre take place?  
 11. Deity concealed in this, I suppose (4)  
 12. Presides badly - break up the meeting (8)  
 13. Hide (7)  
 14. Painter and composer of oratorios (7)  
 15. Used for Mosaic inscription to rearrange battle (6)  
 16. Part less damaged when they are medically applied (8)  
 17. Neil is upset by a stranger (5)  
 18. What must be paid, we hear, for carpet fasteners (5)  
 19. Measure a paved area (4)

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Harold Wilson; 2 Hamster;  
 3 Death Valley; 4 Parry; 5 War; 6 Pacific;  
 7 Fayed brothers; 8 Kingfisher; 9 Henry IV;  
 10 Syria.  
 Niner: RECOUPING

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

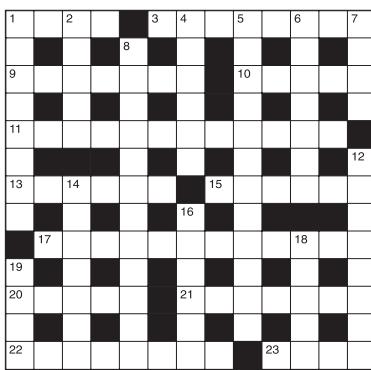
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Young animal and a young insect (4)
- Lock-jointed! (8)
- So sure I can be in earnest (7)
- To compel payment is strictly correct (5)
- This may lead to strife, but Sid returns with a treaty (12)
- Painter and composer of oratorios (7)
- Used for Mosaic inscription to rearrange battle (6)
- A point to the story is not ethical (6)
- The country is unattested, in a way (6,6)
- Neil is upset by a stranger (5)
- Partly bear a cheerless affliction (7)
- They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
- Count them up the reptiles (6)
- What must be paid, we hear, for carpet fasteners (5)
- Measure a paved area (4)

## Down

- Put a later time for staff appointment (8)
- A capital participant in the Trojan War (5)
- Used to be deposited (6)
- Mercurial recorders (12)
- Painter and composer of oratorios (7)
- What one must do to provide a levy (4)
- What the judge may deliver, consisting of many clauses (4,8)
- Part less damaged when they are medically applied (8)
- Neil is upset by a stranger (5)
- Partly bear a cheerless affliction (7)
- They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
- Count them up the reptiles (6)
- What must be paid, we hear, for carpet fasteners (5)
- Measure a paved area (4)

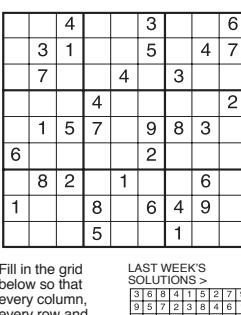


## Quick Clues:

## Down

- Imitate (4)
- Estimated (8)
- Incite (7)
- Stable (6)
- Taut (5)
- One by one (12)
- Numberless (6)
- Hurry (6)
- Tory (12)
- Stroll (5)
- Hide (7)
- Salutation (8)
- Plan (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

3	6	8	4	1	5	2	7	9
9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6	1
2	4	1	9	7	3	8	5	6
6	3	5	9	4	7	2	8	0
7	9	8	6	1	3	4	2	5
8	1	3	7	5	9	6	4	2
4	7	9	6	8	2	1	5	3
5	2	6	3	4	1	8	9	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Seraphs; 7 Lists; 9 Scans; 10 Knights; 12 Charioteers; 14 Persistence; 18 Willing; 19 Enter; 21 Feted; 22 Infancy. Down: 1 React; 2 Launch; 3 The; 4 Single; 5 Statute; 8 United; 9 Present; 13 Delight; 15 Soldier; 16 Convict; 17 Flora; 20 End; 21 Outfit; 22 Macabre; 7 Allow; 9 Mire; 10 Unmanned; 11 Fraudulence; 14 Fashionable; 18 Stunted; 19 Avoid; 21 Impel; 22 Contact. Down: 1 Rapid; 2 Matter; 3 Try; 4 Please; 5 Collect; 8 Inhuman; 11 Run over; 13 Pastime; 15 Hinder; 16 Levity; 17 Pinch; 20 Row.

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A fishy story – two sea bass served with root vegetables and mash



Rustic restaurant – inside is authentic and relaxed



Taste of Italy – Cafe Casita Ristorante Italiano



Traditional taste – homemade tiramisu

# It's no secret now, this Italian restaurant was just the job

**ITALIAN** has always been a personal preference so when our six-year wedding anniversary came up we decided it would be the perfect excuse to sample one of the local eateries.

There is just something about the food, wine and atmosphere that seems to tick all the boxes for such occasions.

Our choice was Cafe Casita, in Clarence Street, Dudley, which we had previously been assured had a lovely relaxed and rustic feel about it.

It was exactly what we had hoped for with the set up being not too posh but fancy enough to enjoy a special meal.

Under the management of Anna and Erminio who have a passion for creating a memorable experience, the restaurant specialises in seafood – particularly Dover sole,

By James Driver-Fisher

salmon, monkfish, seabass and lemon sole – which again ticked all the boxes for us.

Without trying to sound too set in my ways, the first thing my eyes are always drawn to for a main is some sort of seafood pasta but of course there were drinks, nibbles and starters to sort out first.

After much deliberation Kelly opted for fungi in crosta, mushrooms wrapped in filo pastry topped with a light creamy infusion of bacon, mushrooms and mozzarella.

My choice was salsiccia picante, spicy Italian sausage oven-baked with a combination of peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce for the salsiccia picante was rich, thick and bursting with tomato and garlic.

Kelly's starter was probably the polar opposite because, still packed full of flavour, it was a much lighter option and really

very tasty. Perhaps one of the nicest things about the whole evening was at no point did we feel rushed.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly's eyes were immediately drawn to the chef's specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mashed potatoes.

## Crispy

The sea bass was cooked very nicely and remained slightly crispy on the outside.

I went with what I knew I'd love and ordered the tagliolini gameroni, Italy's finest noodles, according to the menu, tossed in king prawns, garlic and cherry tomatoes, served in a creamy sauce with a touch of chilli.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes

in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best. Having had starters, a few side dishes and a main meant there was no room for a sweet course, so we kindly passed on the dessert menu although the tiramisu did look tempting.

The café-style décor of the venue really does add to the experience because, although it's nothing like your run-of-mill greasy spoon, the seating, layout and general feel of the restaurant is designed to make diners feel at home.

Café Casita classed itself as one of the Black Country's best kept secrets within the dining scene.

The restaurant was packed while we were there and everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and food as much as we were – so perhaps it won't be a best kept secret for much longer.

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## A stunning and modern detached family home

Pleasantly situated in a highly sought after village address, 66a Foundry Road, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a stunning and substantial modern four-bedroomed detached family house.

Having impressively spacious, luxury double glazed and centrally heated accommodation over three floors, enhanced by a large full width conservatory extension and two en-suite shower rooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £299,950 with no chain. It is well placed for the village shops and commuter links.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Viewing is highly recommended for the pleasant setting and superb layout to be fully appreciated."

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off, an under-stairs store cupboard, spotlights and tiled flooring and there is a ground floor WC.

The lounge has a living flame-style gas fire with a marble-style feature fireplace surround, double doors with windows either side to the conservatory and further glazed double doors opening to a separate formal dining room.

Beautifully appointed, the kitchen has light-wood style units with black granite working surfaces and a door to the large full width conservatory extension.

This has mirrored windows to the right hand side, tiled flooring and French-style doors to the rear garden. On the first floor landing is stairs leading up to the second floor.

Bedroom one has open views to the rear and an en-suite shower room with a corner shower cubicle with a curved screen door, contemporary glass wash basin and a push button flush WC and full height wall tiling and floor tiling and a Velux roof window.

Bedroom three has a window to the front, as does bedroom four. The house bathroom has a classic white suite including a spa bath. Off the second floor is bedroom two with two Velux roof windows, a store cupboard and a door to an en-suite with a Velux window. Outside the property is set back from the road beyond a good sized driveway and a garage. A gate leads to the rear garden with a paved patio and large lawn and shed.

WALL HEATH £299,950

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors

TEL: 01384 401777

EMAIL: [kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk](mailto:kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



### KEY FEATURES

Stunning & substantial

4 bedrooms

3 floors

Impressive

Spacious



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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

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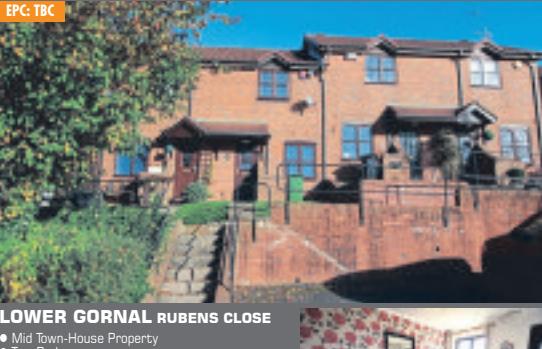


**SKITTS**  
ESTATE AGENTS

**LOWER GORNAL MUSK LANE**

- Detached Family Residence
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Three Double Bedrooms
- 25ft Lounge Diner
- Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room
- Downstairs Cloaks
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking plus Garage
- Private Rear Garden

EPC: D £220,000

**LOWER GORNAL RUBENS CLOSE**

- Mid Town-House Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room & Dining Kitchen
- Stylish First Floor Bathroom
- Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Burglar Alarm System
- Allocated Parking for Two Vehicles

EPC: TBC £117,500

**WOODSETTON PARKES HALL ROAD**

- Impressive Three Bedrooms Detached Residence
- Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen plus Utility Area
- Central Heating, uPVC Double Glazing
- Stylish Bathroom & Downstairs Cloaks

OIEO £159,950

**LOWER GORNAL FLAVELLS LANE**

- Modern Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room with Patio Doors Leading Out
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£189,950

**DUDLEY BEAN ROAD**

- Mid Town-House Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room plus Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- First Floor Bathroom
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

£89,950

**UPPER GORNAL VALE STREET**

- Well Presented Home
- End-Terraced Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Central Heating, Double Glazing

£119,950

**DUDLEY RICHBOROUGH DRIVE**

- Modern End Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan Living Room plus Conservatory
- Modern Kitchen
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£134,950

**SEDGLEY HIGH PARK CRESCENT**

- Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- 20ft Living Room with Dining Area off
- Office/Reception Room
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Shower Room plus Ensuite

£365,000

**DUDLEY THE Belper**

- FOR SALE VIA ONLINE AUCTION
- Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Breakfast Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Off Road Parking
- Cul-de-sac Location

Starting Bid £115,000

**LANEFIELD TYNEDALE CRESCENT**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- 16ft Living Room plus 16ft Sitting Room
- Kitchen, Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking plus Garage

£145,000

**COSELEY HAVACRE LANE**

- Well Maintained Two Bedroom Detached Property
- Living Room, Dining Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£149,950

**COSELEY HOSPITAL LANE**

- Two Bedrooms Mid-Terraced Residence
- Living Room, Fitted Kitchen
- Fringed Modern Bathroom
- Parking to Rear
- No Upward Chain

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**SEDGLEY THE RIDGEWAY**

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- Downstairs WC
- Fitted Kitchen plus Utility
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing (where specified)
- Well Presented Family Residence

£149,950

**THE STRAITS GRAFTON GARDENS**

- Semi-Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- 18ft Living Room
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- First Floor Bathroom
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking plus Garage
- NO UPWARD CHAIN



£149,950

**SEDGLEY ALDERDALE AVENUE**

- Pleasant Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Useful Carport



£188,000



## A surprisingly spacious family home in a great location

**KINGSWINFORD**  
£375,000 <<<

This surprisingly spacious five-bedroomed detached family home in Buckingham Grove, Kingswinford, lies in a great location.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £375,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing and comprising it has an entrance porch, a reception hall, a large walk-in cloaks store, an impressive main lounge, a separate sitting room, a huge rear dining room, a re-fitted breakfast kitchen with Cherry Wood style units and a range cooker, a lobby, a guest cloakroom with a white suite, five bedrooms (four doubles - all with wardrobes), a re-fitted master en-suite shower room with a white suite, a house bathroom, a double garage, a block paved driveway and a rear garden.

For further information please contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 or visit [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com)



## End of terrace home has been extended

**GORNAL**  
£139,950

This modern extended two-double-bedded end of terrace home in Riston Street, Gornal, Dudley, is for sale through Wakeman at £139,950.

It has an entrance hallway, a lounge, an inner hall, a cloakroom, a breakfast kitchen, a dining conservatory, a landing, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, garage and gardens.

The property is a modern extended end of terrace residence occupying a convenient location within reach of a wide range of amenities, Gornal village centre and Sedgley together with access to surrounding centres. The house has well maintained and attractively presented accommodation with two double bedrooms, double glazing and gas central heating.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit the site [www.wakeman-online.com](http://www.wakeman-online.com)

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HIMLEY, Bridgnorth Road

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New price

£439,000



SEDGLEY, Catholic Lane

An elegant imposing APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS gas centrally heated UPVC double/triple glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached on wide plot in prestigious district with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 24ft through lounge, formal dining room, kitchen, utility room. Gallery landing, principle bedroom with bathroom en suite, three further double bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom, double garage, additional 10'3" side space and gardens rotated to the South, block paved driveway. EPC D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £420,000



KINGSWINFORD, Moss Grove

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY HOME superbly located within the heart of Kingswinford Village and further complemented by the LARGE BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT 100 FT REAR GARDEN. Offering TWO LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. The property is set back beyond the front/side driveway with SECTIONAL GARAGE and the impressive rear garden. EPC E

New price

£274,950



KINGSWINFORD, Digby Road

Enjoying a generous corner position within this cul de sac upon highly sought after Chartersfield, this EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers an enlarged, now very spacious and attractively appointed layout, plus a block paved DRIVEWAY with a USEFUL STORE and generous side / rear gardens, providing the potential for further extensions (subject to consent). EPC D

New price

£249,950

Offers in the region of £240,000

Offers in the region of £233,500

Offers in the region of £219,000

£197,500



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Traditional gas centrally heated and either UPVC single or double glazed semi detached of character with many period features having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now offering further potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling height), pantry, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, lengthy garage, garden. EPC F SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £165,000

£159,950

Offers in the region of £154,950

£154,950

£197,500



DUDLEY, Langstone Road, Russells Hall

A deceptively spacious semi-detached property located on the popular Russells Hall estate, this good-sized family home has so much to offer. Benefiting from entrance porch, central heating and double glazing, this EXTENDED house also boasts; open-plan lounge-diner, utility, fitted breakfast-kitchen, ground-floor wet room, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking to front. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. EPC B. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £134,950

Offers in the region of £134,950

£129,950

Offers in the region of £124,950

Offers in the region of £105,000

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS! A modernised, gas centrally heated & upvc double glazed traditional style end terrace offering further potential within walking distance of the village and all associated amenities and briefly comprises; entrance hallway (useful cellar), two living rooms, spacious 16'7" kitchen (with double French doors out to the garden). Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC E SEDGLEY.

ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED & DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS HOME comprises; Porch, Hall, Stylish Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining, Conservatory, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway, Pleasant Garden & Garage. EPC C

A delightfully presented semi detached property located on a corner plot in the popular area of Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating this lovely starter home also boasts, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility / storage room, guest W/C. TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC D SEDGLEY.

A most conveniently situated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR FLAT within reasonable distance of so many day to day amenities, bus route, country park etc. Requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom. Allocated garden, GARAGE - short lease. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY.

**Kingswinford**  
01384 401777

**Brierley Hill**  
01384 265265

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01902 880888

Also at **Stourbridge** and **Halesowen**



#### KINGSWINFORD, Summerhill

This LUXURY DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoys a SECLUDED SETTING from a shared drive off Summerhill; a short level walk to Kingswinford's amenities, offers: Hall, 19' LOUNGE, separate Dining Room (both could create a Lounge/Dining area and a Bedroom 3), Feature Kitchen, Two fitted bedrooms, En-Suite and Master Bathroom. Forecourt Parking, Garage, and Rear level patio/lawned garden. EPC D



#### SWINDON, The Holloway

The Detached house on the village fringe, is superbly appointed plus a fitted office/studio, offering: Hall, Cloaks/WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Breakfast/Utility, Four Bedrooms, feature En Suite & Designer Bathroom and D/Glazed. Fore garden/Drive, Side gated Garage, and two Gardens. EPC C



#### SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

SHOW HOME NOW OPEN FOR VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT. With construction now nearing completion, and just 4 plots available for sale, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £279,000. -Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

New price

£259,950

New price

Offers in Excess of £255,000

PRICES FROM £218,500



#### QUARRY BANK, Bickon Drive

This IMMACULATLY PRESENTED & CONTEMPORARY STYLE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Attractive Lounge, LOVELY GARDEN, Modern Kitchen, Contemporary Bathroom, EN-SUITE OFF MASTER BEDROOM, Excellent Driveway. EPC: C



#### DUDLEY, Himley Road

Quirky, gas centrally heated, double glazed house comprising; hall, cloaks, lounge, sitting room, breakfast room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, dormer attic. Extensive grounds, Mining Search available. EPC:E SEDGLEY



#### DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A SUPERBLY PRESENTED and EXTENDED family home located on the popular London Heights development in Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating this property also boasts, entrance porch, through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive bathroom, with enclosed rear garden and drive to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC:D SEDGLEY



#### LOWER GORNAL, Mount Close

Good sized & conscientiously maintained semi-detached is enviably situated on Mount Close in the sought after Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this family home also boasts; entrance hall, living room, conservatory, kitchen/diner room, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom with separate W/C, landscaped rear garden and driveway to front. EPC:D SEDGLEY



#### SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

An appreciably spacious, gas centrally heated semi-detached for improvement in favoured neighbourhood with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requires updating comprising; entrance porch, hallway, separate dining room, through living room, rear lobby, kitchen, utility/store, outer porch, outbuilding, Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY

£189,950

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £165,000

Offers in the region of £165,000



#### LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising; hallway, lounge with cast living flame fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built-in units) & bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC:E SEDGLEY



#### LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



#### TIPTON, York Close

Comparatively spacious EXTENDED gas centrally heated & double glazed detached with LARGE CONSERVATORY that has been tremendously modernised and improved in recent years comprising; porch, inner hallway, ground floor bathroom, refitted kitchen with a fine range of light beige units & many integrated appliances, activities room (former garage), living/dining room & conservatory beyond. Three bedrooms, shower room & separate toilet. LARGE GARDEN. EPC:D SEDGLEY



#### WORDSLEY, Marshall Crescent

Forming part of the Heritage Buildings at Crystal Mead, this STYLISH PERIOD FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT offers spacious and beautifully appointed high ceiling rooms, including TWO GOOD BEDROOMS plus maintained grounds with OFF-ROAD



#### SEDGLEY, Whitesmith Close

ENVIRABLY SITUATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF BULLRING! - Conscientiously maintained recently redecorated gas centrally heated & double glazed first floor apartment forming part of development overseen by the Accord Housing Association for residents aged 55 plus with visiting warden facility comprising; front door approach (with stair lift) to the first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, two bedrooms, shower room. Communal grounds, allocated parking. EPC:C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £138,950

Offers in the region of £142,500

Offers in the region of £140,000

Offers in the region of £139,950

£139,950



#### COSELEY, Johnson Street, Hurst Hill

An attractively presented traditional terraced property situated in the popular Hurst Hill, Coseley area. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this ideal first time buyers home also has living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY



#### PENSNETT, Primrose Park

AN IMPRESSIVE TWO BEDROOM MEWS BUNGALOW, delightfully located within this sought after and secure WARDEN CONTROLLED gated development, all set within secure gated and beautifully maintained gardens/grounds, including communal RESIDENT CAR PARKING. EPC:TBA



#### PENSNETT, Primrose Park

AN IMPRESSIVE END MEWS RETIREMENT BUNGALOW, delightfully located within this sought after and secure WARDEN CONTROLLED gated development, including beautifully maintained gardens, offering a VERY WELL PRESENTED One Double Bedroom layout with an impressive CONSERVATORY. EPC:C



#### DUDLEY, Douglas Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in an idyllic location in Dudley opposite Buffery Park, this immaculately presented ground floor maisonette benefits from central heating & double glazing. Ideal for the first time buyer or a purchaser looking to downsize this TWO BEDROOM home also boasts; well-appointed living room, refitted kitchen and bathroom, landscaped and private rear garden, leading to front with parking for multiple vehicles. EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £89,950

£95,000

Offers in the region of £95,000

No upward chain

£94,950

No upward chain

£92,500



## Three bedroom mid-terrace home in a popular location

**BEWDLEY**

**£132,950**

<<<

A well proportioned three bedroomeed mid terrace family home, 28, Wassell Drive, Bewdley, lies in need of modernisation.

In a popular residential location, it is for sale through Halls at £132,950 with no chain.

The property is approached over a paved stepped pathway leading to an entrance porch and door to the reception hall.

It also has a living room to the front of the property, a kitchen/diner with a fitted pantry, three first floor bedrooms – all well proportioned – and a bathroom and gardens.

The kitchen/diner to the rear would benefit from modernisation/refitting, currently having a range of work surfaces with fitted base level cupboards with inset stainless steel sink, single drainer and mixer tap with a tiled surround.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, please contact Halls on 01562 820880 or visit [www.hallsgb.com](http://www.hallsgb.com)



## Modern detached home has five bedrooms

**BRIERLEY HILL**

**£219,950**

This splendid, modern, detached, family home in Terrace Street, Brierley Hill, is on a private drive, set back about 45 metres from the road.

The five-bedroomed home is on the market with Trinity Property and offers of £219,950 are invited.

Having double glazing and central heating, a large garage and private gated off road parking to the front leading to the front door. It has an entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit [www.trinityproperty.net](http://www.trinityproperty.net)



# K.Stuart Swash

**AUCTION - 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

Guide

### 82 COMPTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Close to City Centre – spacious Mid Tetraced, Lounge, Dining Room, 18ft. Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, 16ft. Attic Bedroom, Yard & Garden. Epc: tba. PLEASE TAKE TORCH.

**Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 11th & 12th November @ 11.00 a.m. £53,000 / £58,000**

### 68 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Ground Floor Flat, private Hall, 14ft. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with white fittings and shower over bath, Garage, pleasant outlook to rear. Epc: E.54

**Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 11th & 12th November @ 11.45 a.m. £48,000 / £53,000**

### 25 CLAREMONT ROAD, SEDGLEY (Development potential STTP)

Detached property - part non-standard construction – Foregarden, Hallway, WC., Room 1, brick built rear section, Room 2 with side entrance, long Rear Garden – approx. 90ft. Epc: tba

**Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 11th & 12th November @ 10.30 a.m. £33,000 / £38,000**

### 339 DUDLEY ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

On 'bus route, close to shops, 26ft. Lounge, Rear Hall, Dining Room, long fitted Kitchen, G.F. Shower Room, Three Double Bedrooms, Shower Room No. 2, 17ft. Attic Room, Gas CH., Rear Garden. Epc: tba

**Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 11th & 12th November @ 11.30 a.m. £133,000 / £138,000**

#### VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

**PLEASE NOTE:** Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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[www.kstuartwash.co.uk](http://www.kstuartwash.co.uk)**



## Appealing three-bed home, ideal for modern family

A most appealing, three-bedroomed modern-style semi-detached family home in Minehead Road, Dudley, has just joined the property market.

It is for sale through Taylors at £146,950 with the huge advantage of having no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing its accommodation

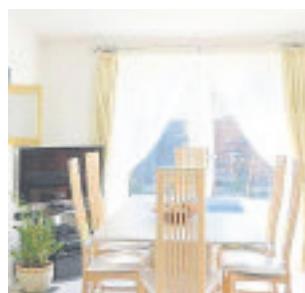
**DUDLEY**

**£146,950**

briefly comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room with a good sized dining area with plenty of space for a table and chairs, as well as a beam-effect to the ceiling and walls and a feature inglenook-

style fireplace housing a fire with a canopy over on a quarry-tiled hearth, an L-shaped breakfast kitchen with plenty of modern light-wood-effect units with a pantry, three bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside is a block paved drive, garage and a garden.

Contact 01902 880888 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## Improved and extended family home in a quiet cul-de-sac

TIPTON

£279,950

<<<

Being much improved and extended, this four-bedroomed family home in Amphlett Close, Tipton, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac.

On a substantial plot and ready to move into, it is for sale through Love Your Postcode at offers in excess of £279,950.

The grand entrance hallway leads to an equally grand extended lounge with a feature fireplace and ample space for entertaining. This in turn leads to the dining room overlooking the rear garden, and having access to, the landscaped rear garden.

Also to the ground floor is a fitted kitchen with integrated hob and utility area, a further versatile reception room and a downstairs bathroom, a cloakroom and downstairs WC. Upstairs are four bedrooms (master en-suite) and a bathroom.

For further information contact Love Your Postcode on 0333 344 7772 or visit [www.loveyourpostcode.com](http://www.loveyourpostcode.com)



## A well-presented detached home

WEDNESBURY

£270,000

A well presented detached executive home on a popular estate in Waterside Avenue, Wednesbury, is a must view!

With four bedrooms and beautifully presented throughout, it is for sale through Skitts at £270,000. With central heating and double glazing it has a porch, an entrance hallway with stairs off, a guest WC, a lounge with French doors to the rear garden, a dining room which overlooks the front and a kitchen/diner.

The kitchen/diner has a built-in oven with a four-ring gas hob and extractor above and a door leading to a utility. Upstairs are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside, to the side of the property is a driveway and a garage and a rear garden.

Contact Skitts on 0121 5051818.

# Wakeman

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121 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £354,950

- Impressive detached house having substantial two storey rear extension
- Extended living room, extended breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms
- Enviable positioned overlooking open countryside and farm land
- Attractively landscaped front & rear gardens with ample off road parking
- EPC RATING D

O/A £354,950



47 CEDAR AVENUE, COSELEY

- Attractively presented traditional style semi detached house
- Three generous bedrooms, separate lounge & dining room
- Enlarged & re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, re-fitted bathroom
- Good sized private rear landscaped garden
- EPC RATING C

£170,000



TIPTON

- Level site with work shop
- Outline planning consent
- Planning App No: DC/14/57543
- Convenient location



ST JAMES STREET

£189,950

- New build detached bungalows
- Two parking spaces per plot
- Fully fitted kitchen with breakfast bar
- Spacious living/dining room with french window
- PREDICTED EPC TBC



42 WALLOWS WOOD

£185,000

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Occupying a pleasant & popular cul de sac location
- Private south west facing rear garden
- Deceptive accommodation with utility room & conservatory
- EPC RATING D



139 SEDGELEY ROAD

- Three bedroom detached house
- In need of updating works
- Excellent opportunity for purchaser
- Generous sized plot
- EPC RATING F



43 FURLONGS ROAD

- Attractively presented traditional style semi detached house
- Three bedrooms, separate lounge & dining room
- Enlarged & re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, re-fitted bathroom
- Good sized private rear landscaped garden
- EPC RATING C



O/A £169,960



71 DIBBLE ROAD

£124,950

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Ideal for first time buyer
- EPC RATING E



16 ROWAN ROAD, SEDGELEY

- Well maintained & improved two bedroom semi detached house
- Separate lounge & dining room, ground floor w.c.
- Kitchen with utility room, re-fitted fully tiled bathroom
- Occupying a pleasant and convenient location with attractive rear garden
- EPC RATING D



£125,000



LAND FRONTING FIRS STREET

- Development Site
- Subject to Local Authority consent
- Rectangular area of land
- Approximately 0.134 acres
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



107 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

£650pcm

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious accommodation
- Larger than average rear garden
- EPC RATING E



13 TURS HILL ROAD

£650pcm

- Edwrdian style semi detached house
- Two bedrooms plus box room/study
- Extensively modernised & improved
- Newly fitted kitchen & bathroom
- EPC RATING G

### BREWERS WALK, SEDGLEY

Small development of new houses

Initial release of three terraced houses with three bedrooms  
Will be completed to a high standard throughout

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE  
PRICES FROM £164,950  
Predicted epc rating tbc



4 GOLDBOROUGH CLOSE

£595pcm

- Modern semi detached house
- Two large bedrooms
- Parking for two cars
- Good sized accommodation
- EPC RATING D



FLAT 8 ALEXANDRA COURT

£425 pcm

- Modern first floor flat
- One bedroom
- Parking for two vehicles
- Shared grounds
- EPC RATING C

202 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley  
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## An attractive, spacious and much improved detached home

DUDLEY

£258,000

>>>

The sale of this attractive and spacious home in Mansion Close Earls Keep, Dudley, is much improved.

It is for sale through Taylors at £258,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, this much improved detached family home has accommodation briefly including a reception hall, a fitted cloak room, a lounge with a bay window, a separate dining room, a refitted kitchen with a fine range of contemporary style units and matching utility section, four generous bedrooms (with a reappointed shower room en suite serving the principle bedroom) and a reappointed bathroom, garage and garden.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## Modern end town house in a popular spot

HALESOWEN

£169,950

A modern two and a half storey end town house in Bethesda Gardens, Halesowen, lies on a popular development.

Having accommodation over three floors, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £169,950.

It has a reception hall, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, four bedrooms with two having en suite shower rooms, a house bathroom and a garage. The property has gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and front and rear gardens.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.



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## Substantial and versatile extended detached house

To be sold for the first time since new in 1991, this substantial and versatile 4/5 bedroomed extended detached house in Steatite Way, Stourport-On-Severn is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £250,000.

Within a very popular location towards the top of Steatite Way its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, ground floor bedroom

**STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN**

£250,000

five or study/playroom - depending upon user requirements - a living room, a dining room, a conservatory extension, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, a cloakroom/WC, 4 bedrooms (with an ensuite shower room to the

master bedroom), a house bathroom, a block paved driveway and level enclosed rear gardens. An excellent family home, interested parties are being urged to view quickly.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact Phipps & Pritchard on 01299 822060 or visit [www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk](http://www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk)

# High on the list of affordable SUVs

By John Griffiths

**With no signs of a dip in sales of compact SUVs – by far the biggest sector of the new car market – it's a good time for Vauxhall to update its offering to keep it in the race.**

The new Mokka X, already one of the more capacious examples of the genre, now comes with a minor facelift, new equipment and, more importantly, two efficient new engines – a 1.4 petrol turbo and Vauxhall's 1.6 litre whisper diesel which does live up to its name.

The test car was powered by the latter unit as used in top models of the much-acclaimed new Astra, with 136PS of power and a hefty 320Nm of torque, which endows it with the dual benefits of lively performance and relaxed cruising.

It is indeed a quiet unit: never raucous even under hard acceleration, and virtually silent even at motorway speeds.

Its refinement is matched by its tax efficiency: its 114g/km CO rating means road tax and benefit in kind tax are kept relatively low.

Official tests put its average fuel consumption at almost 66mpg, but such official figures are rarely (if ever) achieved in the real world so my test figure of 54mpg over a couple of hundred miles of mixed driving might be a reasonable guide.

The test car was in Elite trim and costs £24,415 but the range goes from £17,640 to £26,815, which is very competitive in this sector of the market.

The new Mokka comes with a front end facelift including a new wing-shaped horizontal grille and double wing LED headlights. The back lights are also new, and on the inside the car has a completely new dashboard adapted from the new Astra.

It retains its sporty good looks without compromising on interior space, able to accommodate five adults in comfort plus 356 litres of cargo. Naturally you can fold down the rear seats to increase boot capacity to 1,372 litres.

The seating position is high, for easier access and good visibility, which is one of the big attractions for SUV buyers. The big, sports-style front seats hold you comfortable and secure, and for those in the front seat heaters are standard on this model as was a heated leather steering wheel.

The test car was a front wheel drive version (which the majority of buyers will chose) although there is a 4x4 option. In spite of its height, the Mokka X handles well and corners with little discernible body roll, probably because of rather firm suspension which you do notice over some of our B-roads. The car performs well, and feels particularly relaxed during motorway cruising.

Equipment includes digital radio, Bluetooth, automatic headlights and wipers, electrically heated and folding door mirrors, ABS, stability and traction controls, hill start assist and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

It is also fitted with OnStar, Vauxhall's new system where the touch of a button can put you in touch with a real human operator for

help and assistance. If, for instance, you're unlucky enough to have an accident the operator can tell exactly where you are and alert the emergency services.

For those who prefer petrol to diesel, Vauxhall has added the option of a 1.4 direct injection turbo engine from the Astra. This 152PS unit, even with a six-speed automatic

transmission and adaptive all wheel drive, is still capable of averaging 43.5mpg and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 150g/km. It's pretty nifty too, able to tackle the 0 to 62mph dash in 9.4 seconds.

There's a 140PS version of the same engine, providing a little more economy and lower emissions.

Since its launch just four years ago, Vauxhall has sold more than 500,000 Mokkas in Europe – with one in five going to UK buyers.

Its new engines and interior should keep it high up on the list of affordable SUVs, even without the OnStar system which provides a level of assistance and a safety net unusual in cars in this price range.

VAUXHALL MOKKA X



A facelift makes a good package from Vauxhall even more attractive

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**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vivaro Panel Van range: Urban: 35.3 (8.0)-40.9 (6.9), Extra-urban 42.8 (6.6)-51.4 (5.5), Combined 40.9 (6.9)-47.0 (6.0). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 155-178g/km.\***

\*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R and Corsa Diamond. Offer not available in conjunction with the Test Drive Allowance. £500 Free Fuel is not given in cash. £500 Free Fuel is inclusive of VAT. Offer available on eligible, selected new vehicle orders from 11-14 November 2016 and registered by 30 November 2016. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Refer to [www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent) or contact your local Retailer for details. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



Listen to the birds chirping with the hood down



Fold the roof away to listen to the engine

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Silver,  
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**£4495**

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5dr, Blue,  
42,000 miles  
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2013-63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTi 130 ECOFLEX SRI



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66,000 miles  
**£4995**

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Black,  
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By Ian Donaldson

IT was very nearly worth the imminent onset of hypothermia to hear the rasp of this BMW's exhausts with roof lowered and throttle pressed with conviction.

Eventually the wind chill called a halt for roof erection (electrically, in seconds) but not before the car had registered a beguiling mix of brawn and sophistication.

Many people choose a drop top for its looks and the chance to hear the birds chirping and people mowing their lawns on a sunny summer's day.

Not so many want a near limitless stream of power that turns this ragtop into a genuine performance machine. For those that do, BMW will happily supply a new M240i, in coupe or cabriolet shape.

Sitting at the top of the BMW 2 Series range, the twosome gain a more powerful engine than before, up by 14 horses to a not inconsiderable 340 horsepower. That shaves 0.3 seconds off the zero to 62mph time – now 4.7 seconds if you choose an automatic gearbox – and quite enough to provide all the thrills you'll ever need on the way to work.

Or on some deserted stretch of smooth continental mountain pass, where you could knock the auto 'box (eight speeds and £1,600 extra) into manual and control the changes from the paddles behind the chunky leather wrapped steering wheel. Best to do this with the roof folded away, the better to hear the exhaust note's angry bark as each change goes through and the horizon fast forwards towards you.

Top speeds in all versions of the M140i and M240i are electronically limited to 155mph, which ought to be sufficient even on a clear stretch of unrestricted autobahn.

The twin turbocharged six-cylinder engines powering these mid-sized fun machines have been worked on by BMW's engineers so that there's improved economy and emissions along with the power lift. It means a reduction of up to seven per cent in the official average fuel consumption, with an impressive 39.8mpg with auto gears in the M140i and M240i Coupe and 38.2mpg for the heavier Convertible. CO<sub>2</sub> figures are 163 and 169/g/km for auto boxed cars and a bit worse (179/189) for models fitted with the six-speed manual gearbox.

Cleverly, BMW points out that prices for these more powerful newcomers remain unchanged (M140i £31,000, M240i Coupe £35,090, M240i Convertible £38,535) but running costs for anyone paying company car tax are down, thanks to the cleaner tailpipe emissions.

The M Sport versions talked about here all have firmer suspension but the Convertible has its own settings, a little softer to help cut to a minimum the near inevitable shimmy on bad roads caused when you chop the metal roof off a car and replace it with canvas. Even on poor roads you hardly notice and the delights of open top motoring (if you're so inclined) more than compensate for the modest extra vibration felt through the wheel.

Whichever version you choose there's a typical BMW cockpit awaiting you, where function wins over extravagant looks every time. It results in a cabin lacking the obvious glamour of a recent Mercedes, for instance, but one where the driver is very much king of his powerful empire. And it all works nicely, from clear digital speed readout to a big central screen, which can connect you to the outside world via a built-in SIM card and for £900 through a Professional navigation system (a simpler system is standard) that updates data free.

Not that getting lost behind the lovely six-cylinder engine would always be a bad thing. Keep the hood down and take the long way home.

## AT A GLANCE

BMW M240i Convertible

Engine: 3.0 litre petrol engine, 335bhp

Warranty: Three years, unlimited mileage

Economy: The M240i can do 38.2mpg officially

Insurance group: 42

Price: £38,535

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Month**

## We look forward to seeing you

**EXCLUSIVE TO YOUR BLACK COUNTRY VAUXHALL DEALERS**

### Halesowen Motor House

Dudley Rd, Halesowen,

West Midlands. B63 3NH

**0121 503 0001**

[www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk)

### T Wall Garages

High Street, Pensnett,  
Kingswinford DY6 8XB

**01384 288333**

[www.twall.co.uk](http://www.twall.co.uk)

### Stourbridge Motor House

High Street, Amblecote,  
Nr. Stourbridge DY8 4DG

**01384 447970**

[www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk)

### Dudley Motor Company

Trindle Rd, Dudley,  
West Midlands DY2 7AY

**01384 454100**

[www.dudleymotorco.co.uk](http://www.dudleymotorco.co.uk)



# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

**J.R. JONES**  
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

**DAINTY & DOWNING**  
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

monumental masons

S. A. LOCKETT & SON LIMITED  
337 Tettenhall Rd, Wolverhampton  
WV14 6QH Tel: 01902 822622  
[info@salockettandson.co.uk](mailto:info@salockettandson.co.uk)

lost & found



**LOST, MALE CAT**  
Mostly white with two black patches on top of head.  
Microchipped.  
Missing since October 27, 2016 from WV14 area Coseley.  
07857 223060.



**MISSING SMOKEY**  
Since October 19, 2 year old grey tabby cat, Lower Penn area, microchipped.

Any info please contact Laura on 07971569688,

1 Family

elderly & disabled

**Capitol Mobility-Bilston**  
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP'S!  
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC  
WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!  
01902 400920  
[www.capitomobility.co.uk](http://www.capitomobility.co.uk)

ACORN STRAIGHT STAIRLIFTS  
WANTED Working or not, rapid removal. Tel: 07967 003600

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver servicing available. Call 01902 878916. Tel: 01384 255019 / 07831 246292

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New avail. 01902 405397 / 07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

**music shop**

RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA wanted & sold 50s-90s+. Record shop Wolves wv1 3hi 07760 168972

car boot sales



**CHESTERFIELD**  
3 seater and 2  
seater, colour Oxblood.

As new, real top leather, in the  
box, never been used, must sell  
less than half the price.

£1000. can deliver.  
Mobile 07342 746919

caravans / motorhomes

**We Want Your Motorhome**

Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid  
Please Call  
AEG on 01384 848439 or  
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448  
[www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk)

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5\* Park BC, CH, bar, restaurant. Child & Pet friendly, 20 acres woodland. £24,995 inc 2017 site fees. Call 01568 708 326

cornwall

**Saundersfoot Bungalow**  
3 Bed, All En suite, Sleeps 8, Central heating, TV, Video, Washing machine, Dishwasher, Microwave Ring Brochure 0121 353 1575

mind, body & soul

massage

TRADITIONAL CHINESE Massage Hot Stones 01902 803659/07741 696099. Compton WV6 8AF

what's on

bouncy castles

BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE Jumpin-Jens.co.uk Professional inflatable, fully insured. 079700 24953

markets

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY**  
Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

**ROYAL ALBERT** Old Royal Roses (English), large collection tableware. For details 01902 798468 Coven.

furniture

FOUR TALL DARK BROWN DARK  
Real leather dining chairs, excellent condition £90. 07790 689680.

THREE PIECE suite, G-plan, very good, new set £550. 01384 833839 or 07517 900700.

TWO SINGLE Drawer dinning beds, newly, plus all, matting, bedding, £90 both. 07752 461025.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

**ARTIFICAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV, cameras, supplied & fitted. Any car Free Estimate. 7 days a week. Digital satellite TV installation. Wall mounts/TV setups. 07850 330251.

Two SINGLE Drawer dinning beds, newly, plus all, matting, bedding, £90 both. 07752 461025.

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING  
OAP discount. Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10

specialists at your service

aerials

**ClassifiedAds**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



**CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...**

I am very pleased with the response  
I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**

AERIALS FITTED FROM £75

WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE

Work Guaranteed

01902 858191

01384 429166

01543 439095

01922 716029

07833 738357

VISA

Mastercard

Amex

Discover

Cheque/Trade.com

Bank Transfer

PayPal

Bank Transfer

01902 317878 | classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

**AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE**  
Mini, midi and large skips  
Also available mini digger with driver  
**01384 237577**  
**01902 405745**  
**07719 671845**

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**  
Save £££'s  
All site skips and all sites covered  
Same day delivery from a phone call!  
Open 7 days a week  
**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 55**

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!**  
No skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est same day, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE  
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875  
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

tree services

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite or chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Estimates: 01902 848705 / 07841 842624

upholstery

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/springs/caravans/pubs/clubs/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 642980.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/springs/caravans/pubs/clubs/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 642980.

# 4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

THREE STABLES with 2 acres available to rent from Jan 1 onwards. Wombourne area, 01902 897846 / Text 07950 646008.

guns &amp; dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.  
Call 01922 412212 orwww.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk  
RGT Wolverhampton  
@RGTwolves

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not change to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAGLE PUPPY, bitch, tri colour, vaccinations, wormed, parents can be seen. 01562 824350.

BORDER COLLIES black and white, tri colours, 12 months old. For more information call 01588 676106.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

vets  
**Express & Star**  
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

# 5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

CLOSING DOWN Cards, invitations inc gift paper, plus Christmas cards. Over 2,500 cards. Best offers over £1,100. 07760 445946.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 2 BED FLAT Fallings Park, Lichfield, Staffs. Ask to Let. DSS ok. 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Advertising Standards Agency Act 1956 for an Agent to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to

FURNISHED STUDIO FLAT quiet location of Penn, suit working person, off road parking. 01545 504770 after 7pm.

HIGH QUALITY Furnished 1 bed flat, Tattenhall area. No DSS. 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

ONE BED ground floor self contained flat, gch, dg, off road parking, Penn, Cheshire. Tel 01562 824350. £400pm. 07932 631290.

SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pwk. Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

overseas property

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accountants



TOYOTA PREVIA DIESEL 2.0  
06 reg. MOT four months, alloy wheels, silver, good tyres, good condition, 160,000 miles, P.A.S., navigation, clean car.  
£2,350  
07424 542999.



VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2  
2012, 29,100 miles, black, alloys, aircon, parking sensors, bluetooth, MOT, FSH, stereo, electric windows, genuine reason for sale.  
£4,395 ono  
07948 533707.

## EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI

1.2. Petrol. 5 door.  
2012. 58,000 miles.  
Met Grey.  
CD. E/W. E/M. A/C. FSH.  
Cruise control. PAS.  
Alloys. Factory tints.  
RCL. HPI clear.  
£3,999.  
07956 882868.

## cars under £1500

**BMA** Est. Here 25 Years  
Cars from £500  
With Full MoTs and Warranties  
OPEN EVERY DAY  
07926 988517  
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

## MUST BE SEEN

CITROEN XANTIA 1.9 TD

T reg, silver, 80,000 miles, two owners, all electrics, 11 months MOT, excellent runner, well maintained.

£425 ono.  
07908 009210.

## GOOD RUNNER

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

2.0 HDi, MoT until August 2017.  
Slight dent on body.  
Good runner.  
£600 ono.  
07982 427522.

FIAT PUNTO 1200 02 plate, 12 months MoT, new clutch, excellent throughout. £500 ono.  
Telephone 07717 270097.

FIAT PUNTO Sport, 1.2, 30 reg, MoT July 2017, 52,000 miles, electric windows, good condition. £550 ono. 07956 615584.

## BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA 1.2

53 Reg, silver, petro, P.A.S., alloys.  
Air bags, CL, 11 months MoT.  
EW, CD.  
£650 o.n.o.  
07733 383592.



FORD KA

Ideal first car, 2007, 54,500 Miles, Navy blue with white stars on back panel, MOT til Oct 2017.

£550 ono

07495130846

## MUST BE SEEN

FORD FOCUS

1600, 05 plate, petrol.  
Deep red.  
MoT till June 2017,  
Good condition,  
£795.  
07757 698959.

## BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE

5Dr.  
58 Reg.  
Grey.  
MoT'd.  
FSH.  
Second owner.  
£1,500.  
07454 844447  
or  
07746 209372

FORD KA

Ideal first car, 2007, 54,500 Miles, Navy blue with white stars on back panel, MOT til Oct 2017.

£550 ono

07495130846

## EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA

2004 plate, 84k, same owner last 4 years,

Blue,

Long MoT.

£1,000 ono.

07913 981460.

## BARGAIN

JAGUAR X-TYPE

Grey.  
2004.  
Full MoT.  
£1,295 o.n.o.  
07973 282911.

## GOOD RUNNER

NISSAN MICRA 1.0 S

2002.  
Metallic Green.  
Good condition.  
Only done 53,000 genuine miles.  
£650.  
0787 1565243.



VW GOLF 1.4 16V

2001, 5dr in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, new cam belt, new coil overs, new brakes, Audi TT alloys, 11 months MoT.

£1,100 ono.

07814 336980 or

01902 306544.

## clutches / brakes / gearboxes

## A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328 or

07972 169554 anytime

For Example:  
Citroen C1, C2, C3  
Hyundai i10  
Toyota Yaris  
Clio & Micras  
Ring for quotes on others!

10

## Personals

ATTRACTIVE, lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

Hearts icons

GENUINE ATTRACTIVE SLIM MAN 53

GSOH, car owner, would like to meet genuine lady 40-58 for evenings, days out and friendship.

Box Number P20603, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 69

Slim, caring, non smoker, retired, car owner.

WLTM slim female, non smoker, retired, car owner. To share holidays, meals out, for fun times with and who knows, maybe more.

Box Number P20606, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★★★  
RESPECTABLE WOMAN 70's.

Wishes to meet nice gentleman for friendship, days out together and cosy evening in.

Box Number P20605, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★★★  
STOURBRIDGE ATTRACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL 65 YEAR OLD LADY

Seeking retired professional, well dressed, tall, solvent Gentleman to enjoy the good things in life.

Photo essential.

Box Number P20604, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertising today? We would respectfully remind you that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## STATUTORY NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Cornerstone Community Church, 34 High Lane, Pensnett, Brierley Hill, Dudley, in the registration district of Dudley in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, was on 27th October 2016 registered for solemnizing marriages therein, pursuant to Section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by Section 1(1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act 1958)

TALBOTS LAW

Inglehouse House

31 Wolverhampton Street DY1 1DB.

7489561

Telephone 01384 274014.

motorbikes

## PEUGEOT TWEET 125 RS SCOOTER

White, November 2012, 5,400 miles, MoT November 2017, excellent condition. Topbox and security chain included.

£900.

Telephone 01384 274014.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/meta for cash.

M&B

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE

for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD

Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or

70553. Evenings 75397. D5Y 3JZ

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**PATRICIA**, 50s, solvent female, fun, likes to travel, seeks tall, easygoing mature male to enjoy all the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424553

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA, Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

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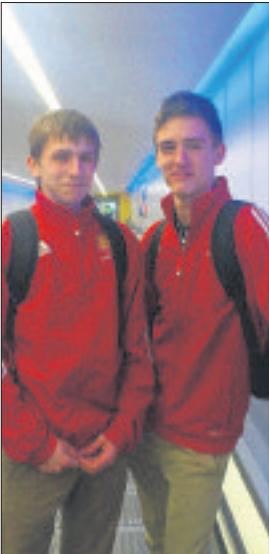
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The u-16 girls were national finalists in April this year



Louie Morris and Reece Jecketts



The u-18s when they became National Outdoor Champions in 2011.



The club's community development officer Jude Hitchens

# Lazy days over as club looks to bounce back

CANNOCK Hockey Club have made a series of appointments to lead them back to the top after admitting they got 'lazy'.

Alex Hill has taken over as club captain from Tom Widdowson after the appointment of Gary Stacey as head coach of the men's first-team. The previous National League champions are looking to bounce back from relegation after 27 years in the top division.

Hill, who joined the club as a 12-year-old in 2003, previously coached in the junior section from the Under-11s to the Under-18s.

The club has also announced the appointment of two internationals supporting their under-16 and under-18 squads.

Louie Morris, aged 19, who has played for England under-18s, will continue to lead the under-16s while Callum Stacey, also 19, who has played Wales under-18s last year and is now in the senior squad, will take over the under-18s.

## Complacent

Stacey, the son of head coach Gary, is back in the first-team squad after spending a year at National League side Olton and West Warwick gaining valuable experience.

In addition, Jude Hitchens has been appointed as the club's new community club development officer.

Hill admits the club's previous successes made them complacent but says there is a real determination to turn things around.

"Cannock Hockey Club has a fantastic history, having been champions of the National League and leading competitors across junior age group competitions for many years," he said.

"Sadly in recent years people have sat on this past success. We've been lazy. Our junior section needs

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Nash

**"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."**

rebuilding and our club is in need of real inspiration.

"The current membership, including the first team and juniors, must create its own history and this time create a legacy that will last for decades."

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."

"However, it has given us time to reflect, and we have a new ethos at Cannock this year which is 'every member matters'."

"We want to be successful at first-team level but we want everyone at our club to feel cared for," he added.

"The appointment of Gary and now Jude will be crucial if we are to succeed with this."

"They both know the club inside out and most importantly they care about our club."

"I'm so excited about this season, I think it will be a real turning point in our future."

As regards his new role, Hill said: "My job is to oversee selection, review and develop the coaching team, support parents and help improve hockey across the club with the support of the newly-appointed coaches."

The new ethos is reflected by Cannock boasting

training sessions suitable for all levels from ages of eight to 80.

Hitchens, who has played for Cannock Ladies for three decades, will take responsibility of developing the membership and promoting the sport in the community.

This will include developing links with both primary and secondary schools as well as launching a new back-2-hockey scheme. Cannock already has a satellite club set-up at Erasmus Darwin School in Chasetown and will look to set up competitions between local schools at their Chase Park base.

"I'm so happy to be playing such a key role at the club I love," said Hitchens.

"Cannock is the best hockey club in the Midlands, with its facilities, quality of its provision and success on the pitch."

"I can't wait to get started and spread the Cannock message."

## Merging

The club also welcomes Chris Beck, who will working on social media coverage across all levels of the club.

Meanwhile, Cannock hockey club's junior section is merging with the ladies section for all members under 14.

This will mean all under-14s will train on the same evening and will also allow them to share resources and expertise.

Hill will oversee the development of both the players and coaches at under-16s and under-18s levels, creating a clearer pathway to Stacey and the first-team squad.

Cannock are seeking nine matchday sponsors as well as a main sponsor to appear on the first-team kit for next season.

Anyone interested should contact joint chairman Ian Gardner via [igardner.uk@gmail.com](mailto:igardner.uk@gmail.com)

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<b>Ironbridge Victorian Christmas &amp; Christmas Lunch</b> Sun 11 Dec £34.95	<b>Ludlow Castle Medieval Christmas Fayre &amp; Christmas Lunch</b> Sun 27 Nov £31.95	<b>Moreton in Marsh Market &amp; Christmas Lunch</b> Tues 13 Dec £27.95	<b>Menu sample</b> Soup of the day *** Roast Turkey with all the trimmings and a selection of seasonal vegetables and potatoes *** Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce *** Tea or coffee (vegetarian option on request)

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Put shirt on club bouncing back from complacency

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## Zaber goes for gold in title attempt

MANNY Zaber will have to overcome the worldly wise Josh Baillie to get his hands on his first professional title next weekend. Zaber has been paired with Baillie to contest the vacant British Challenge super featherweight crown.

The two will go toe-to-toe in an eight-round at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday November 19, on Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing show titled 'Going For Gold.'

Unbeaten Zaber has eight paid victories under his belt without reply, but is still awaiting his first inside-the-distance. The 21-year-old was also nominated for the Best Newcomer award at the British Boxing Board of Control Midlands area's annual awards.

'Pac Man' will come across a game adversary in Baillie who, despite only taking part in seven pro contests, has boxed far and wide.

'The Boss' travelled to Australia for his first three fights, winning two with a debut TKO. Only future national champion Miles Zalewski got the better of him, on points. Baillie then went to China to take on Can Xu, losing narrowly on points.

The 31-year-old was born in Barrow-on-Furness but lives in Tamworth.

Five support contests will support the main event, with Walsall's Martin Gethin and Zach Parker featuring in six-rounders.

Wolverhampton's Josh Burke will be looking to move into position for the vacant Midlands cruiserweight title in a four-round against Aaron Green.

Chasetown's Luke Jones is targeting a hat-trick of pro wins with his first Town Hall appearance. West Bromwich's Thomas Loach is waiting to be paired for his second outing.

Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside, on sale on 0845 111 2900.

## 'Yozza' has Wade to face on darts Grand Slam debut

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes will have PDC heavyweights James Wade and Dave Chisnall in his group for the Grand Slam of Darts. Hughes is the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament begins at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday afternoon. James Wilson completes the group.

Holder, PDC No 1 Michael van Gerwen was drawn in Group A with Brendan Dolan, Max Hopp and the BDO's Martin Adams. Six-time winner Phil Taylor is in Group D with Ian White, Darren Webster and the BDO's Darryl Fitton. Raymond van Barneveld, Mensur Suljovic, Nathan Aspinall and the BDO's Danny Noppert are in Group F.

Reigning BDO world champion Scott Waites, is in Group B with Robert Thornton, Gerwyn Price and Dimitri van den Burgh. PDC world champ Gary Anderson makes up Group E with Alan Norris, Nathan Derry and Glen Durrant.

Peter Wright will play Simon Whitlock, Ted Evitts and the BDO's Jeff Smith in Group C. Group H comprises Adrian Lewis, Benito van de Pas, Chris Dobey and the BDO's Scott Mitchell.

## Summers sets sights on next bout

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers returned to action in style with a TKO win after exactly seven months out and already has his next ring date.

Summers headlined the last time professional boxing was staged at the Venue in Dudley on March 4 and again took top billing under the same lights last weekend, writes Craig Birch.

'Digger' blew away the rust with a third round stoppage of Chris Dixon, who still had one minute and five seconds left to last of the session.

The unbeaten light heavyweight kept up his flawless record of 12 wins from 12, scoring his fifth inside-the-distance. He will now prepare

### Boxing

to fight again on December 4. PJ Promotions are putting on their next show at the Venue, a 'Crunchtime at Lunchtime' Sunday afternoon show. Summers is likely to take on Kelvin Young in another six-rounder.

Netherthon's Les Byfield, Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny and Birmingham's Kane Baker are all set to feature after winning on Friday night, as will Lichfield's Brad Foster.

Byfield eased to a four-round points landslide over Ricky Leach, who had little time to warm up

after arriving late due to traffic on the motorway.

Denny was elated after snapping a run of two draws in a row at middleweight. He had his hand raised, at last, after beating Robert Studzinski.

Baker, from Bartley Green, took on the most experienced active professional in the country, Kristian Laight, competing in his 252nd paid contest.

Fight of the night went to Telford's Tony Jones, with manager Kellie Maloney looking on, as he saw off Ross Jameson at super lightweight.

CJ Challenger, 22, opened the show with the promising welterweight from Leicester defeating Czech Michal Voyska emphatically on points.

## Must-win clash goes way of DK

### DK 58 Kenilworth 3

DK had slipped back into the bottom three and in a must-win game welcomed a team below them in Kenilworth.

Dave Pitt touched down for the opening score, with Tompkins adding the conversion. Kenilworth hit back with a penalty, their only score of the game.

A tap penalty led to Arran Hudson crashing over for a try, 27-3 to DK.

DK started the second half in the same vein that they ended the first, and were soon on the scoreboard, a Luke Greenwood break breached the first line of the Kenilworth defence, an inside pass to Liam Marshall saw the move continue, then Rich Kelley drove into the 22, and finally Danny Hawkins powered over the line, with Tompkins adding the extras.

James Fildes and Keiron Williams were introduced and the next significant piece of action was a scrum penalty. Kicked into the Wanderers corner, DK showed their all round game with a catch and drive, leading to Arran Hudson scoring his second try.

Danny Hawkins drove over for another try, with Tompkins adding two to the tally.

Replacement prop Keiron Williams got on the scoresheet when he was able to take advantage of a good break by Ben Connell, Tompkins had got its range by now and landed another conversion.

The forwards finished the game on a high with a push over try, Danny Hawkins once more, to make the final score 58-3.

## Anderson spot-on in victory for Yeltz

Halesowen Town 1 Coalville Town 0  
HALESOWEN claimed a hard fought victory through Kaiman Anderson's early penalty.

The Yeltz started brightly with Anderson and Lee Chilton both denied by fine early saves from Coalville goalkeeper Matthew Coton. But leading striker Anderson stepped up to hit the winner from the penalty spot after being brought down by Kyle Bryant in the ninth minute.

Substitute Danny Bragoli almost doubled Halesowen's lead with three minutes remaining, only for Lee Torr to race back and clear off the line.



Dan Scarr puts Stourbridge level during the FA Cup first round at Whitehawk

## Kaiser Chiefs star joins Blizzard on run

THERE was very little on the calendar for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to get involved in at the weekend.

Many decided to keep their powder dry in anticipation of the cross country season, but there were still opportunities

to race if people looked hard enough.

Simon Blizzard looked north towards Yorkshire to take part in the Leeds Abbey Dash, a 10k race on a fast, flat course hailed as one of the best races in the country. And it certainly proved popular with international ath-

letes, Olympians, good standard club runners and a member of the band, Kaiser Chiefs, joining over 10,000 competitors on the start line.

Despite wet conditions Blizzard recorded a time of 39.05 over the 6.2 mile course to finish in 510th position.

★★★  
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Thursday, November 10, 2016

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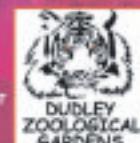
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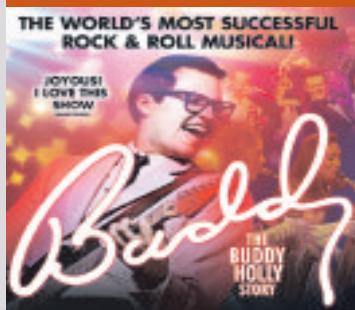
WINTER 2016  
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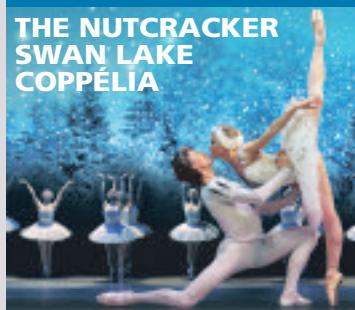
SAT 28 JAN  
**THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE**



TUE 31 JAN – SAT 4 FEB  
**BUDDY – THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY**



SUN 5 – TUE 7 FEB  
**THE RUSSIAN STATE BALLET OF SIBERIA**

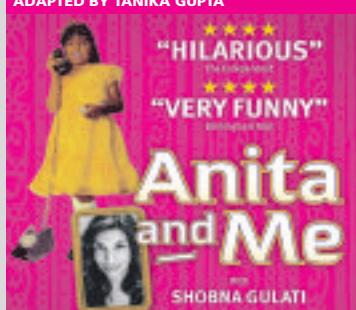


SUN 12 FEB  
**CHINESE NEW YEAR EXTRAVAGANZA**



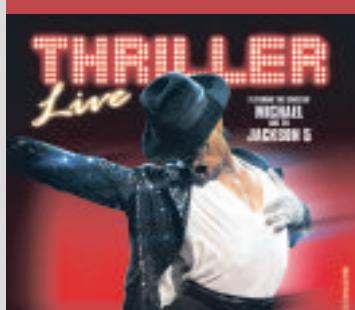
TUE 14 – SAT 18 FEB

**ANITA AND ME**  
BY MEERA SYAL.  
ADAPTED BY TANIKA GUPTA



TUE 21 – SAT 25 FEB

**THRILLER LIVE**



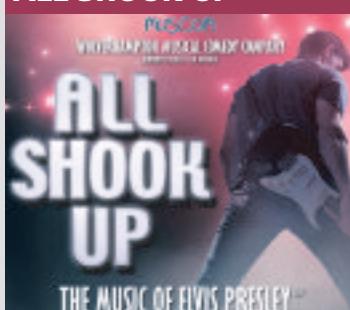
MON 27 FEB – SAT 4 MAR

**SISTER ACT**



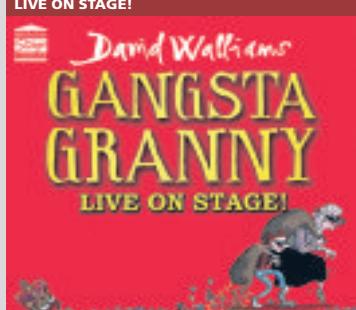
TUE 14 – SAT 18 MAR

**MUSCOM PRESENT ALL SHOOK UP**



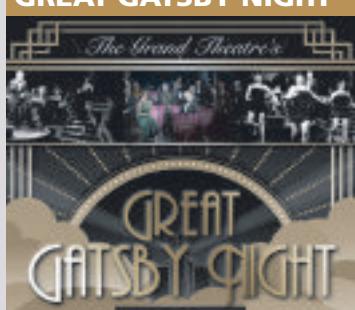
WED 22 – SUN 26 MAR

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SAT 1 APR

**THE GRAND THEATRE'S GREAT GATSBY NIGHT**



MON 3 – SAT 8 APR

**THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG**



SUN 9 APR

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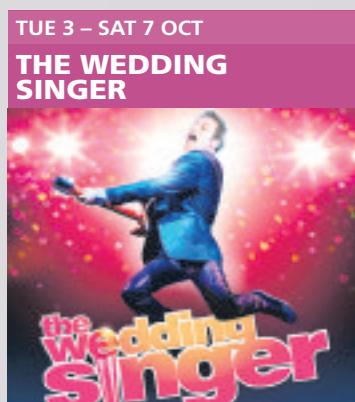
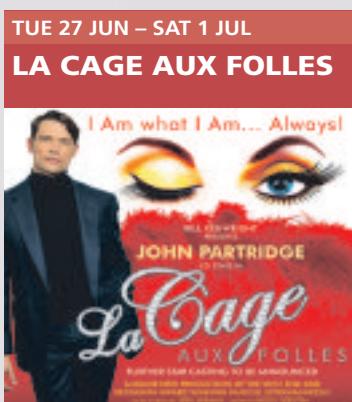
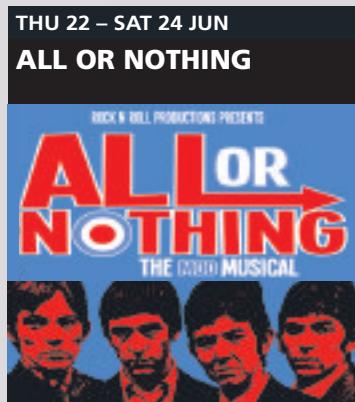
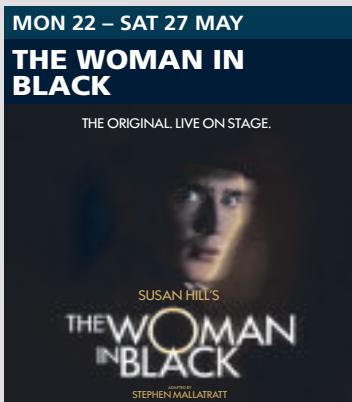
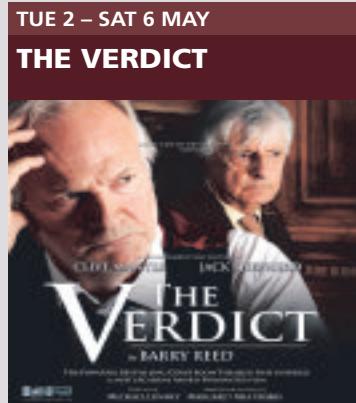
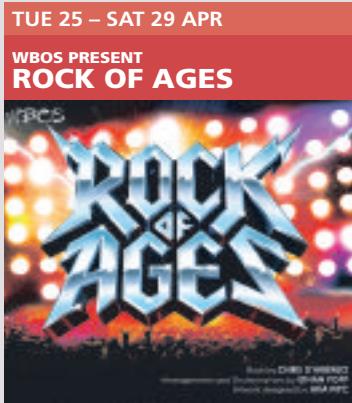
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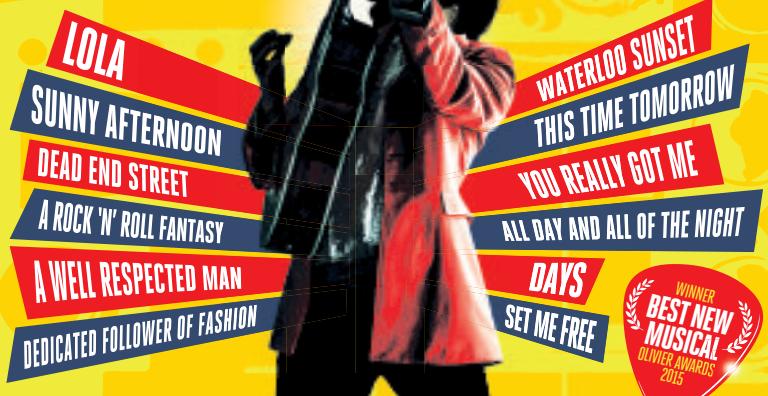
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